Hafa Adai!

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US lawmakers to visit CNMI in August. PAGE 2
Mayor's office staff arrested for illegal collection of fees. PAGE 5

Cape Air cancels several flights

» Cancellations reportedly to last until Tuesday

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Four Cape Air/United Airline flights from Saipan to Rota or Guam were cancelled yesterday, on top of more cancellations on Friday and Saturday, reportedly due to "mechanical issues," according to information obtained from members of the public and flight data found online.

Two morning flights and an evening flight destined for Guam were cancelled, as well as a flight destined for Rota in the

See CAPE AIR on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rancher Ernest "Ernie" Torres, right, leads the loading of an almost 1-ton bull to a specially designed container that will carry a total of nine bulls and a young female cow to Guam, at the Port of Saipan on Saturday night. The cattle shipment left Saipan early Sunday morning and is expected to arrive in Guam this morning to an expected fanfare, some 12 years since the last shipment of its kind from the CNMI to Guam.

First cattle shipment from NMI arrives in Guam today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Big hopes as rancher loads cattle to special container

"This is history," rancher Ernest "Ernie" Torres said Saturday night after leading an almost 1-ton bull to a special blue container at the Saipan seaport that will carry a total of nine bulls and a young female cow to Guam.

Torres said Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo and others are expected to welcome this morning the arrival of the first cattle shipment from the CNMI to Guam in about 12 years, following the May 2014 lifting of some agricultural policies that also marks the resumption of interisland agricultural trade between the

See CATTLE on Page 4

Democratic Party bets file candidacies

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gubernatorial candidate Edward M. "Tofila" Deleon Guerrero and his running mate, Daniel O. Quitugua, led the reorganized Democratic Party's filing of petitions and candidacy on Friday morning, surrounded by their families, friends and supporters. The Democratic Party has 11 candidates in the November gen-

See DEMOCRATIC on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Democratic Party's gubernatorial candidate Edward M. "Tofila" Deleon Guerrero, center, and his running mate Daniel O. Quitugua, left, lead the party's filing of petitions and candidacy on Friday morning at the Commonwealth Election Commission in Susupe.

EPA considers finding CUC in contempt, eyes receiver

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» US grant for CUC now over $50M since court orders in 2009

With a federal judge pointedly stating that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has no regard for judicial deadlines, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is now strongly considering asking the court to find CUC in breach of court orders and appointing a receiver to oversee the utilities agency's operations.

U.S. Department of Justice Envi-

See EPA on Page 4

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Local

Manibusan files candidacy for CNMI's first AG election

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Retired Superior Court presiding judge Edward Manibusan, third from right, along with his campaign team chairman Jack Diaz, right, files his candidacy for the CNMI's first attorney general election, while Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero, second from left, looks on Friday afternoon.

Retired Superior Court presiding judge Edward Manibusan filed his candidacy on Friday afternoon for the CNMI's first attorney general election, some two years after voters ratified a legislative initiative making the AG position an elected rather than an appointed one.

"It's a very exciting year, and it's a very exciting opportunity to finally have an elected AG," Manibusan said during his filing of candidacy at the Commonwealth Election Commission, surrounded by family, friends, campaign team led by chair Jack Diaz and supporters.

Manibusan is so far the only AG candidate that has filed his candidacy. Attorney Mike Evangelista has yet to file his.

In an interview and in a statement, Manibusan said the CNMI needs "an independent AG with the right experience."

"The people have spoken and it is time to elect our AG," said Manibusan, also a retired director of the Department of Public Safety and a former prosecutor.

Manibusan's priority is protecting the people of the CNMI and keeping the rule of law for everyone, including the government.

"But it is just as important that prosecutions are just. I will always consider what is fair, and what justice requires," he said, adding that he is committed to ensuring that law enforcement activities are coordinated so that every case is ready for prosecutions. He also seeks to work on sentencing initiatives and consumer issues.

After the filing, Manibusan and his supporters held a brief road-waving in front of the Election Commission, before the heavy rains came.

He said he looks forward to meeting with residents, especially people with an interest in improving the Office of the Attorney General.

Manibusan currently maintains a private practice while servicing as chairman of the Judicial Discipline Enforcement Special Court of Guam.

Besides his legal background, Manibusan has always supported community youth programs, serving as chairman of the Youth Advisory Council under the Office of the Governor for years. During that time, he worked to implement federal funding for criminal justice youth programs. He reviewed projects including youth community centers where children could go to after school to study, after-school programs and youth basketball programs.

Manibusan is the founder and president of the Northern Marianas Junior Golf League, and served on the board of directors of Mount Carmel School for many years. He also served as president of the CNMI Bar Association. More information about his ideas and background are available at edwardmanibusanag.com.

"I will look into community outreach programs. I want a safe community so that we, our children, and the community as a whole will have a bright future," he added.

House vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan) introduced a legislative initiative that voters ratified in the 2012 elections, paving the way for voters this year to elect their highest law enforcement official. Dela Cruz had said that this time, "the AG will not be under orders by the governor as has been in the past."

However, there are also concerns about how effective this structure may be, "but this is mainly because of precedence in Guam and other states with an elected AG where there were reports of policy differences, stalled progress, lack of support to line agencies on civil matters, to name a few."

US lawmakers to visit CNMI in August

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Kilili also invites Interior's Kia'aina, USDA's Rowe

Members of the U.S. House of Representatives with oversight on insular areas will be on Saipan for at least a day in August to meet with Gov. Eloy S. Inos and others in the CNMI. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) has also invited newly confirmed U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina to visit the islands.

Audrey Rowe, the administrator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service, is also expected to visit the CNMI this year, making her the highest USDA official to set foot on the islands.

U.S. House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs chair John Fleming of Louisiana announced the visit to Saipan during last week's panel hearing.

Sablan, during the committee meeting, said he "look[s] forward to having Chairman Fleming join me on the small island of Saipan very soon."

"But until all the plans are finalized, the Natural Resources Committee has asked that I refer press inquiries to them," Sablan later told *Saipan Tribune*.

U.S. House Natural Resources Committee chair Doc Hastings of Washington is also believed to be among those visiting the CNMI next month.

The visit comes at a time when the CNMI is waiting for congressional action on immigration bills, including those of Sablan, relating to the proposed extension of the E2-C investor visa program beyond 2014, the extension of the CNMI's exemption from accepting asylum applicants beyond 2014, and the extension of the CNMI and Guam's exemption from the national H visa cap, among other things.

The U.S. lawmakers' visit could also be timed for the unveiling of the permanent Garapan public market, funded partly by $200,000 U.S. congressional earmark that Sablan worked on in 2010.

Last week, Sablan met Interior assistant secretary Kia'aina, whom the U.S. Senate confirmed on June 26, 2014, to head the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs with oversight over the CNMI and other territories.

Sablan said they talked "most about what kind of a working relationship there should be between her office and the Congressional Subcommittee with overall responsibility for insular affairs, on which I am the lead Democrat."

"We did talk about Northern Marianas issues, too, of course, especially the importance of my bill that extends the bar on asylum for five years to protect our growing tourism trade with China. And I did invite Assistant Secretary Kia'aina to visit the Northern Marianas as part of her ongoing refamiliarization with all of the areas she is now responsible for assisting," Sablan said.

As for the visit of USDA's Rowe, Sablan said, "Those plans are under discussion and will be announced when finalized." Rowe is administrator for SNAP, WIC, school lunches, and all the feeding programs that USDA manages.

"Ms. Rowe's responsibilities are national and a trip to the Marianas will be a major commitment of her time. So we will be very fortunate if this all works out," Sablan said.

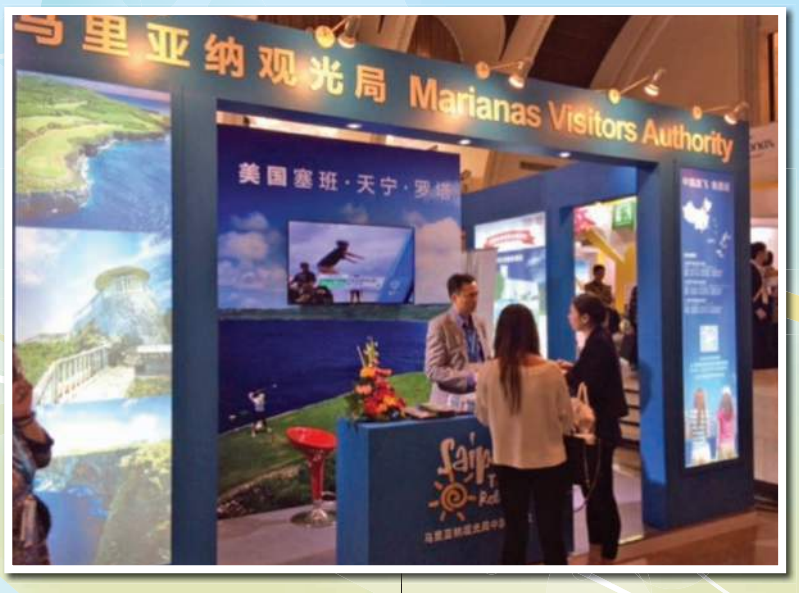
Tourism Topics

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

Shanghai World Travel Fair

The number of Chinese visitors to the Northern Mariana Islands continues to grow, with 108,666 visitors received this fiscal year through June 2014. This comprises 48 percent of all visitors to the islands.



The MVA opened representative offices in Beijing and Shanghai last year and continues to conduct travel trade marketing and public relations campaigns to promote the NMI. This outreach included the Shanghai World Travel Fair held in May. The fair was open to both travel trade representatives and consumers. Joined by Century Tours and Tinian Dynasty, the MVA met with travel agencies and media partners in the region over the 3-day event, with special emphasis on promoting charter flights from Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, and Hong Kong.

The MVA continues its emphasis on diversification from China, Japan, Korea, Russia, and Other destinations in order to build and sustain a healthy tourism market mix.

Saipan Tinian Rota

HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

Utilities commission approves 4 non-rate revenue fees

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission approved Thursday last week four of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s non-rate revenue fees for unauthorized electric service reconnection and investigation fees, unauthorized connection to poles, and 1 percent late charge for both water and wastewater services.

According to CPUC, CUC's proposed $550 unauthorized electric service reconnection fee, proposed $200 reconnection at the pole fee, and proposed increase in its investigation fee from $60 to $210 are necessary, just, and reasonable

CPUC hearing examiner Harry Boertzel said that CUC and Georgetown Consulting Group jointly recommended that the proposed non-rate fees be approved by the commission as soon as he certifies that CUC's tariff sheet incorporates the conditions described among the parties.

» Deleon Guerrero says fees on illegal connections a double jeopardy

CPUC chair Joseph Guerrero acknowledged that there have been comments from the public about some of these fees but he clarified that these fees do not apply to most CUC customers.

"I think in general when people see an increase of fees, it's natural to object to any fee increase. These fees that we all have discussed and have looked into are important and it should be clarified what these fees are and who would be charged them," Guerrero said.

He gave particular emphasis on the $550 reconnection fee for those found with unauthorized electric service.

"This is just a small fee, rather then being referred to [the Department of Public Safety] and being arrested for unauthorized connection. I think this is the least of their problems when they could be prosecuted for theft of service," he said.

Guerrero said it is important for the public to know the cost to investigate unauthorized hook-ups and the time, labor, and materials required to reconnect these customers.

He also said that the $200 reconnection at the pole fee is subject to the condition that it be limited to instances where a customer had attempted to bypass the system via unauthorized connection.

Boertzel noted that the investigation fee will be increased from $60 to $210, "provided that a customer get two free investigations within a rolling twelve-month period and a third free investigation if it is due to a CUC-caused problem.

Late charge

CPUC also approved CUC's 1 percent late charge for both wastewater and water services.

Based on his June 13 report to the commission, Boertzel endorsed that CUC continue implementing the current electric service late charge of 1 percent of past due and the said amount be extended to both wastewater and water services.

According to Boertzel's report, the record was unclear if CUC had been implementing a late charge for water and wastewater services.

Double jeopardy

Rep. Larry Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, said that approving the non-rate revenue fees are a double jeopardy for consumers and he expressed hope that the commission would reconsider.

Prior to the approval of the fee for those who are found with illegal connections, Deleon Guerrero cautioned the commission against approving the $550 reconnection fee and $200 unauthorized reconnection to the pole.

"If found in the act of tampering with connections by CUC, they are also subject to a criminal act. I don't know if CUC does report it to DPS, so evidently if it is reported and if they do their investigations and is an illegal act in utility theft, it may be a double jeopardy, and go through court hearings and found to be guilty of theft and substantially charged," he said.

Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* said that there are differences between commercial, government, and residential and imposing unauthorized fees cannot be "set" because it varies, depending on time of investigation.

"They should set up a percentage and a different way to calculate it. What is the size of the customer and their consumption? This rate is not broken down by category; it includes everybody. So how can they differentiate these three," Deleon Guerrero said.

He said that he would meet with the commission, hoping they would reconsider approving the new non-rate fees.

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CUC OK'd to adjust LEAC charge every month

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has been authorized by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission to adjust its levelized energy adjustment clause charge or LEAC on a monthly basis instead of every six months.

CUC will continue adjusting LEAC charges when the "Means of Platts Singapore" or MOPS monthly pricing to CUC equals or exceeds a "4.5 percent differential" in the average per gallon cost of fuel used in calculating the current LEAC charge.

On May 15, 2014, CUC's consultant, economists.com managing director Robert Young, said the price CUC pays for fuel is based on the average MOPS price for the prior month, plus transportation handling costs, taxes, and other costs invoiced by the supplier. Each month, CUC receives notice that the price of fuel will go up or down based on the prior month's MOPS.

Since the LEAC is fixed for six months and CUC has minimal financial reserves and can't borrow funds or get around the fuel price risk, the LEAC includes an unpredictable element of about 5 percent, or about 1.3 cents per kWh, which increases the LEAC to provide extra cash to CUC to cover unexpected increases in the price of fuel.

CUC's executive director Alan Fletche earlier said that the probability of lowering customers' power bills may be possible if CUC is able to adjust LEAC rates monthly instead of every six months.

Fletcher noted that CUC is always trying to bring down rates without jeopardizing service and liability.

DEMOCRATIC

From Page 1

eral elections.

The Deleon Guerrero-Quitugua's filing brings to three the number of gubernatorial teams that have so far filed for candidacy with the Commonwealth Election Commission, including the Republican Party and one independent tandem. At least one more independent gubernatorial tandem is expected to file soon, leading to a four-way gubernatorial race that could set the CNMI up for another runoff election.

Rosiky F. Camacho, chairman of the Democratic Party, said he's hoping that voters would vote on the basis of issues rather than personalities.

"We are ready to debate them anytime, anywhere," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* after the candidates' filing.

Deleon Guerrero, a former executive director of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, said he's "happy" and "relieved" that the Democratic Party candidates have already filed their candidacies, to be followed by a more intense house-to-house campaign.

"We knock on every door that we see, from village to village. I believe that's how we can understand fully what the problems are in the community," he said, adding that the party has a platform and talking points addressing identified problems.

Children were also at the filing, owing to the Democratic Party's emphasis on the future of children from the CNMI and slogan, "What about us?"

"This is to signify we are running because we feel that we need to protect the future of the young generation in the CNMI and to make the CNMI a better place to live," Deleon Guerrero said.

Besides Deleon Guerrero as gubernatorial candidate and Quitugua as lieutenant governor candidate, the Democratic Party also has former Commerce secretary Andrew Salas as candidate for CNMI nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

The other Democratic Party candidates are: Jesus I. Taisague, who is seeking a Saipan senatorial seat; Antonio P. Mareham as Saipan mayor bet; former senator David Cing for Tinian mayor; Precinct I candidates Francis B. Angel, Vince Cabrera, Nelson P. Rios and Calistro I. Reyes; and Precinct II candidate Bruce Iglecias.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 5th birthday to Hailey Shae Forbes Benavente! Wishing that all your dreams will come true on this special day. Lots of love from your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CATTLE

From Page 1

two U.S. territories.

This is only the beginning as there will be two other cattle shipments to follow, said Torres, who is more known as "Captain Torres."

The three shipments will bring a total of 30 to 40 bulls and female cows from Saipan to Guam.

Each costs up to $2,500 depending mostly on the size, said WSTCO resident manager Arnaldo Guban.

At a later time, the CNMI could also ship live goats to Guam.

Torres, a retired U.S. Army officer, clarified that his cattle shipments will be for breeding purposes in Guam, where inbreeding for several years has limited the diversity in the cattle's gene pool. The bulls and female cow destined for Guam are among the healthiest in Torres' ranch.

The ship carrying the cattle container left Saipan around 3am Sunday and is expected to arrive in Guam at about 8am.

Torres, his family, and helpers brought the 10 heads of cattle from the family ranch to the Port of Saipan around 7pm on Saturday and hauled them one by one to a 20-foot container especially designed for cattle shipment.

Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold I. Palacios, who was also at the Port of Saipan to witness the Saturday night loading of the bulls and female cow, said it was "the moment we have been waiting for over the past three to four years."

"This opens up a lot of possibilities," he said, referring to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota ranchers that will now have a bigger market for their bulls, female cows, and other livestock.

Prior to today's arrival of the cattle shipment, Torres said his last shipment of cattle from Saipan to Guam was "about 12 years ago." However, under a different Guam territorial veterinarian after that, Torres said the shipment stopped altogether because of restrictive and unnecessary Guam regulations. Torres is originally from Guam, and moved to the CNMI years back.

"With the territorial vet [veterinarian] that we got there [Guam], I've been working on trying to ship my cattle since late 2006," Torres said in an interview at the Port of Saipan after loading the first of 10 heads of cattle.

He said in 2008, he shipped 20 animals to Palau "because I had such a hard time shipping [them] to Guam, but the load was supposed to initially be for Guam."

DLNR's Palacios said Torres has been a driving force behind the resumption of cattle importation between the CNMI and Guam.

Palacios also credited CNMI state veterinarian Dr. Ignacio "Ike" Dela Cruz, CNMI Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo, the CNMI and Guam Legislatures, the quarantine agencies for both territories, as well as Northern Marianas College's CREES for its artificial insemination program on Tinian. Torres also credited these individuals, along with Guam's Tommy Tanaka Jr.

For years, DLNR worked with their Guam counterpart to lift some quarantine policies they believe to be unnecessarily restrictive and outdated. Those went almost nowhere until the DLNR brought up the matter to the CNMI Legislature and the Guam Legislature. Eventually, the governors of the CNMI and Guam also made it one of their priorities, during a Marianas governors' summit in 2013.

Guam Speaker Judith T. Won Pat and the late Sen. Vicente C. Pangelinan introduced Bill 297-32, amending Guam's animal quarantine regulations to, among other things, remove anasplasmosis testing as a condition for allowing cattle entry into Guam.

Anaplasmosis is a cattle disease that is endemic to Guam and the CNMI but the U.S. Department of Agriculture no longer considers it of major importance.

Bill 297-32 became law in May, paving the way for Guam to start accepting cattle from the CNMI.

The CNMI's state veterinarian, Dr. Dela Cruz, is currently in the mainland attending a conference. Torres said Dela Cruz will also be meeting with some USDA veterinarians overseeing the region "to get some clarification so we can follow up on our shipment, with goats also."

Dela Cruz earlier said that the productive qualities of CNMI cattle have tremendously improved due to the practice of artificial insemination using frozen semen imported from the U.S. mainland.

He said allowing such CNMI cattle with superior genetic characteristics to enter Guam would greatly improve the productive qualities of Guam cattle, thereby promoting their agricultural economy.

CAPE AIR

From Page 1

afternoon, according to flightstats.com.

As of yesterday afternoon, *Saipan Tribune* could not independently confirm the flight cancellations with Saipan's United Airlines airport office, reservation staff, or the United Airlines executive office in Guam as its Saipan airport office number was out of service, reservation staff were reticent on the matter, and the executive office had yet to respond to questions left on voicemail.

Cape Air flies between Saipan, Guam, and Rota under the aegis of United Airlines. It uses an ATR-42 aircraft.

Private citizen Jim Arenovski said his wife, Jill, had a flight cancelled yesterday afternoon from Guam to Saipan. Arenovski noted that he was told flights would be cancelled until Tuesday.

When a United Airlines staff member was asked when flights would be available between Monday and Friday this week, she said there are flights available on Wednesday, July 21.

Yesterday's flight cancellations come ahead of other reported cancellations this weekend.

On Saturday morning, Tommy Baik, a college student visiting from a university in China, woke up to find his flight to Guam cancelled.

Baik said "mechanical problems with the airplane" were reasons given for the cancellation.

Rose Hocog, a concerned member of the public, began a petition in June calling on local and federal agencies as well as the public to look into Cape Air's service in hopes of improvement in quality and reliability of service

In an interview, she cited the airline's frequent delays or cancellation of flights, on top of overall reliability and safety of flights, as things she would like improved.

On this weekend's cancelled flights, she said, "I am so sorry that passengers still have to go through these inconveniences. I would like to call on them to join me in addressing this issue."

The last time Cape Air/United Airlines suspended flights to Saipan for a certain duration was from March 21 to 29, also due to technical issues. United provided an extra flight to affected customers, using a Boeing 737-800 aircraft.

EPA

From Page 1

ronmental Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley R. O'Brien, however, stated that rather than seek specific relief from the U.S. District Court for the NMI at an upcoming July 29 hearing, the U.S. is permitting CUC and CNMI an opportunity to meet their obligations.

"The United States will evaluate CUC's and CNMI's future compliance with the orders and respectfully advise the court accordingly," said O'Brien in EPA's July 29, 2014, report filed in federal court on Friday.

O'Brien pointed out that U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter, in an attempt to help CUC and the CNMI people, presided over some 55 status conferences and personally inspected many of CUC's facilities, despite being a Central District of California jurist whose courtroom is in Santa Ana, California.

"However, the court's good faith attempt to prod CUC into compliance and to develop a functional utility largely failed as CUC continued to violate the orders and the court's deadlines," the lawyer said.

As a result, at the March 17 status conference, Carter pointedly stated that CUC has no regard for judicial deadlines, the series of status conferences are at an end, and the parties are now in an adversarial proceeding.

Carter then directed the U.S. to consider seeking appropriate judicial relief.

Consistent with the judge's direction, O'Brien said the U.S. strongly considered asking the court to find CUC in breach of the orders and court-ordered deadlines; to impose stipulated penalties; and to appoint a receiver to oversee aspect of CUC operations, with the receiver funded by CUC and CNMI under court supervision.

Although progress has been made to cure long-standing deficiencies with CUC's drinking water and wastewater systems—thanks in large part to EPA technical assistance and U.S. grant funding totaling more than $50 million since entry of the orders—CUC consistently fails to meet the orders' remaining requirements and unerringly fails to meet deadlines and "extensions of time" of these deadlines, O'Brien said.

"Serious questions remain whether CUC will meet the orders' requirements and become a functioning utility—in part because two of the three senior level CUC positions falling within the order's requirements (deputy executive director of water and wastewater operations and chief financial officer) are unfilled," he said.

Similarly, O'Brien said, the CNMI fails to meet the terms of the court orders by failing to fund CUC's obligations.

In fact, he said, CUC often represents to the court and the U.S. that a fundamental cause for CUC's poor operations and inability to comply with the orders and environmental laws is the CNMI's refusal to pay the government's power bills—arrears that CUC says total $20 million.

O'Brien said the U.S. intended the orders to create a sustainable foundation for CUC's operations and to modify CUC's historically poor practices in order to be consistent with comparable utilities and in compliance with environmental laws.

In the status report, O'Brien also provided a summary of significant CUC projects covered by the stipulated order numbers 1 and 2 that the court entered in March 2009.

Stipulated order No. 1 focuses on drinking water and wastewater issues such as requiring CUC to provide safe drinking water to residents on a 24-hour basis, maintaining adequate chlorine supplies, safely treating and discharging wastewater, and developing long-term capital improvement and financial plans.

Stipulated order No. 2 focuses on oil issues such as repairing and replacing oil storage and operation infrastructure, managing tank and pipeline facilities, and requiring spill and emergency response equipment and protocol.

Saipan Mayor's Office staff arrested for illegal collection of marriage fees

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Investigators from the Office of the Attorney General Investigative Division arrested on Friday a then-employee of the Saipan Mayor's Office who allegedly unlawfully collected payments for marriage application and filing fees from several applicants.

Florence Tina Reyes Concepcion, 43, was arrested for theft, theft by deception, theft by failure to make required disposition of fund received, and misconduct in public office.

According to Attorney General Investigative Division investigator Urbano D. Babauta Jr., the total amount of money collected from five couples or 10 persons involved in Concepcion's transactions is about $420.

At a hearing on Friday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho allowed Concepcion to post bail equivalent to $1,000 cash and $9,000 unsecured bond.

Camacho allowed a third-party custodian for the defendant.

Concepcion, through her family, posted the $1,000 cash on Friday and was immediately released from prison.

Arraignment will be on Aug. 4 at 9am.

Concepcion's lawyer, Bruce Berline, argued for the release of his client at her own recognizance considering that the charges are a misdemeanor, that she is not a flight risk, and does not pose a danger to the community.

Berline also disclosed that Concepcion's contract with the Saipan Mayor's Office appears to have already been terminated.

Interim chief prosecutor Brian Flaherty recommended a $10,000 cash bail but left it to the court's discretion whether to release Concepcion to a third-party custodian.

OAG investigator Babauta stated in his report that he met with Saipan Mayor's Office special adviser Henry Hofschneider on June 25, 2014, to talk about Concepcion, then an employee of the Mayor's Office who allegedly had been receiving payments for marriage application and filing fees.

Babauta said a staff from the Mayor's Office disclosed to Hofschneider that there were discrepancies associated with the marriage application of a couple. The staff informed Hofschneider that application and filing fees had not been paid, but the couple stated they already gave the fees to Concepcion.

There is a standing policy at the Mayor's Office that no payments are accepted at the office.

Babauta said that he and another AGID investigator met on July 1 with a couple who stated that they submitted their marriage license application at the Mayor's Office in the last part of June 2014. Concepcion assisted the couple and told them they had to pay $50 for the marriage application fee and $20 for the filing and application fees.

The couple made the payments in two separate occasions. Concepcion allegedly never gave the couple a receipt for the payments and only told them she would place their receipts into their file.

Babauta said he and an AGID investigator met another couple who submitted their marriage license application to the Mayor's Office on May 22, 2014. The couple paid for the marriage application fees by check at the CNMI Treasury's Office on Capitol Hill. When the couple went to the Mayor's Office, Concepcion told them they had to pay $20 for copies. They gave $20 to Concepcion and that a couple of days later, they dropped off a red envelope that contained $100 cash for Concepcion. Allegedly, Concepcion told the couple that it was customary for couples who are married by the mayor to give the mayor money.

When the red envelope was delivered to the Mayor's Office, Concepcion was on leave at the time. A staff called Concepcion that there was a red envelope that contained cash that was dropped off for her. The following day, Concepcion came to the office and took the red envelope from the staff. The staff knew there was money in the envelope because she had opened it. Concepcion allegedly offered the staff half of the money in the envelope, but the staff declined the offer.

Babauta said that another couple told him that when they asked where to pay their marriage application fee, Concepcion allegedly told the woman to just give her $70 since she was heading to the court. The woman gave the cash to Concepcion.

Babauta said the same thing happened to another couple he interviewed who told him that Concepcion allegedly offered to carry the payment for their marriage license application to court as she was going down there for a wedding. The couple gave Concepcion $50, but the latter did not give them any receipt.

Babauta said that on July 22 he interviewed a woman who stated that on May 19, 2014, she and her husband went to the Saipan Mayor's Office to pick up a marriage application packet. Concepcion assisted the couple and allegedly told them they had to pay $70 for the marriage license application. The woman gave Concepcion $70. Babauta said that, on June 18, Concepcion called the couple that they had to pay $20 more. The woman gave the $20 to Concepcion, and that no receipt was issued her.

Babauta said under Concepcion's scheme, after receiving the money, she would use the money for her own personal use and then at some point in time later, she would pay the fees at the CNMI Treasury and attach the receipts to their filed application.

Babauta said that Saipan Mayor's Office employees discovered other altered receipts in Concepcion's desk.

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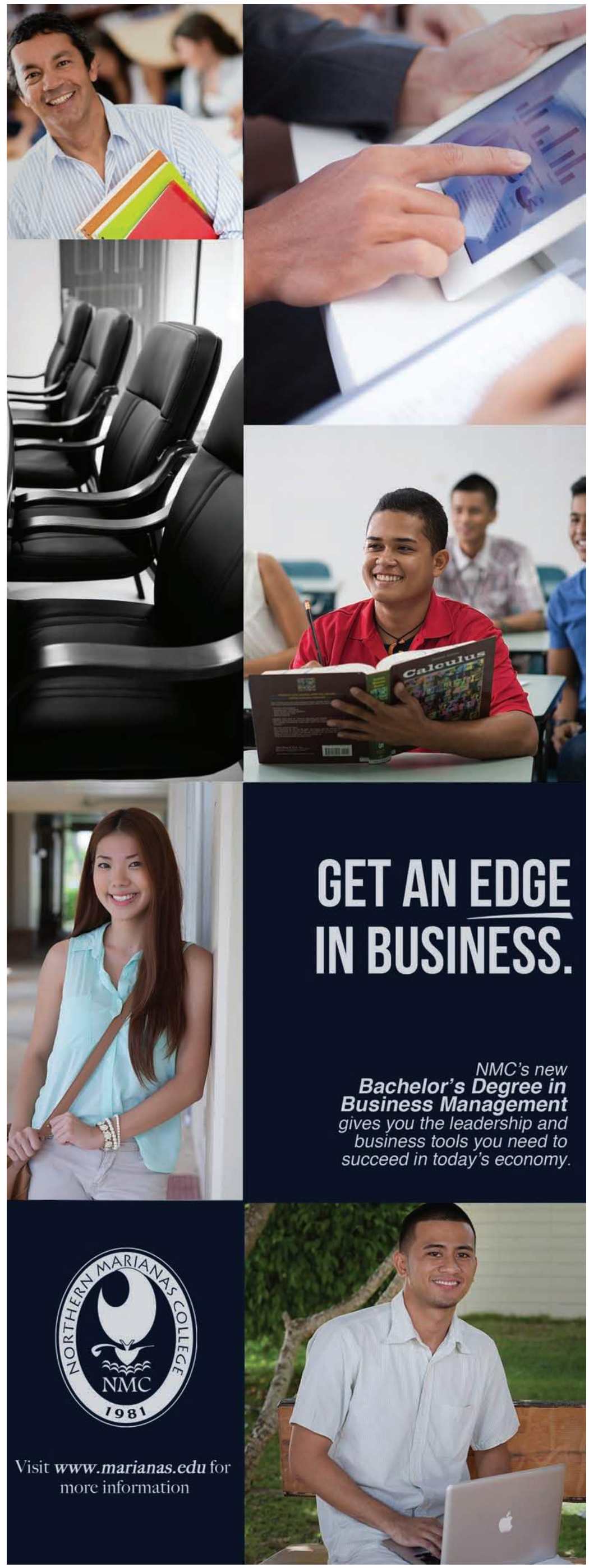
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Docomo contributes $5K in cash, prizes to TOC

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Docomo representatives presented the company's donation of $5,000 for the 2014 Tournament of Champions on Aug. 2 and 3. From left to right: Elna Tighe, Jack Salas, Marie Sablan, Mark Moss, Marida Pensader, James Nelson, Luis Ngiraikelau, Ben Babauta, Jim Hopkins, Lei Hicaro, and Verina Saralu.

Docomo Pacific announced that it has donated $5,000 in cash and prizes to the organizers of the Tournament of Champions.

"For many years, the Tournament of Champions golf tournament has raised funds that aim to heighten the access and beauty of many sites on Saipan," said James Nelson, general manager of Docomo Pacific. "We are pleased to be part of this year's event again and are looking forward to a great tournament at Laolao Bay."

"Docomo Pacific has been an unwavering supporter of the Tournament of Champions and other community events," said tournament director Ben Babauta. "We are thankful for the company's contribution and their commitment to projects that benefit everyone in the Commonwealth."

The 19th Annual Tournament of Champions will be played at the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort's East & West Courses on Aug. 2 and 3. The two-day event is bigger and better than ever with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes. The TOC tournament fee is $185.

First place winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior and Super Senior Flights will each receive $500 cash, $400 for second, $300 for third, a digital camera to fourth, and $100 DFS gift certificate for fifth place. The Ladies Low Gross champion will receive $500, $400 for second, and $300 for third place. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will receive a trophy.

There will be hundreds of thousands worth of prizes that will be at stake in the two-day tournament, including hole-in-one prizes that include brand new vehicles donated by Triple J, Atkins Kroll, and Joeten Motors. Pacifica Insurance is also sponsoring a $5,000 cash prize as a hole-in-one prize, while Saipan Laolao Golf & Resort is also offering one year of free golf as another hole-in-one prize as well. Delta Air Lines and Asiana Airlines are also offering airline tickets as hole-in-one prizes.

The tournament will also be featuring $1,000 cash prizes for closest to pin competitions.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2014 TOC, contact Babauta at 483-2563 or Marida Pensader at 236-2530. ***(TOC)***

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* Ford Fiesta S retail price $17,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $285.06 or $131.57 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $17,103.60.
** Ford Explorer Base retail price $35,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $570.18 or $263.16 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $34,210.80.

GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS
DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its Government and Business customers that current billing of accounts are due on or before Thursday, **JULY 31, 2014**. Payments not received by close of business on **JULY 31** will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00PM on that day.

To prevent temporary suspension, customers are hereby advised to kindly pay their bills on or before Thursday, **JULY 31**. Disputed billings must be brought to IT&E's attention in person or in writing by Thursday, **JULY 31**. Customers must pay any current amount due, to avoid disconnection.

If you have questions regarding billing or services please call Customer Service at 682-4ITE (4483) or visit our Business Sales Center – Middle Rd., Gulao Rai office.

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To avoid disconnection you may pay your IT&E bill at any location below:
SHELL Service Stations – up to 4:00pm
Chalan Laulau – up to 5:00pm
Tinian/Rota Office - up to 4:30pm
TSL Plaza – up to 6:00pm
Online payment – up to 9:00pm

Taiwan travel agents tour Saipan, Tinian

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Media reps for Taiwan's Suntravel.com.tw, Travel Writer 943 and AZ Travel Magazine took a bike tour with Marianas Trekking during their FAM(iliarization) tour of Saipan and Tinian in July 2014.

Three Taiwanese travel media outlets recently spent eight days on Saipan and Tinian to capture the allure of this beach resort destination for their readers.

AZ Travel magazine, Suntravel.com.tw, and Travel Writer 943 featured activities, tells, and eateries in their coverage, distributing 100,000 copies and reaching 80,000 online fans, respectively.

Tourist activities shared on Saipan included golf at Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort, biking, snorkeling at Grotto, a Las Vegas-style cocktail show at SandCastle Saipan, traditional cooking in an underground oven, wedding options, a submarine tour, a sunset dinner cruise, and tours of Managaha Island, Mt. Tapochao, and Santa Lourdes shrine. Activities on Tinian included fishing, horseback riding, star gazing, discovery flights, and beaches.

"With the wealth of information provided by these media on optional tours and activities, travel tips, hotel bookings and more, we aim to see more travel to the Northern Marianas by Taiwanese," said Marianas Visitors Authority acting managing director Martin Duenas.

Hotel inspections were conducted at Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort, Coral Ocean Point Resort, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Mariana Resort & Spa, Aqua Resort Club, and Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

The media also enjoy seafood dinner at Aqua Resort Club, dinner at Coral Ocean Point Resort, lunch buffet at Mariana Resort, a cultural dinner show at Fiesta Resort & Spa, lunch at 360 Revolving Restaurant, and dinner at Garapan Street Market. ***(MVA)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW/FHWA-14-IFB-001

SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION OF FURNITURE, FIXTURES & EQUIPMENT (FF&E) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, TSD/FHWA BRANCH, SAIPAN, PROJECT NO. FY-14(001)

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply, delivery, Installation of Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (FF&E) for the Department of Public Works, TSD/FHWA Branch, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after, July 23, 2014, at the DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars **(US$100.00)** is required for each set and in order to bid on this project. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on August 8, 2014, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on August 22, 2014 to **Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.
The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW/FHWA-14-IFB-001". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time September 3, 2014. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time September 3, 2014, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than September 3, 2014 and must be received no later than September 12, 2014. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, September 15, 2014. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on September 3, 2014.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations §70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of One Hundred dollars (US$100.00) for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

VICENTE C. CABRERA
Acting Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

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Contact 483-1726
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP14-GOV-127

Program Management
CNMI Water Task Force

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Jude U. Hofschneider, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Proposals for Program Management for the Water Task Force on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive, Saipan, on or after July 28, 2014.

Questions regarding this Request for Proposal must be submitted in writing to **CNMI Water Task Force**, Special Advisor by facsimile to **(670) 664-2279** no later than August 8, 2014.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of project approval from DOI/OIA.

The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with NMIAC Section 70-30.3-210 (CNMI Procurement Regulations). Preference per Public Law 15-95 as further amended by Public Law 15-118 is not available in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funds for this project.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"Program Management" RFP14-GOV-127**. One (1) original and four (4) copies must be submitted. Sealed proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply, at Lower Base Drive, Saipan **no later than 2:00 p.m., (CNMI local time) August 27, 2014**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in the best interest of the CNMI. All proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

/s/ELOY S. INOS
Governor

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Supreme Court upholds Calvo's conviction

The Commonwealth Supreme Court recently upheld Patrick M. Calvo's conviction for sexually abusing his daughter. The case involved more than a dozen issues, including whether the prosecution asked improper questions and whether the court's sentence was excessive and in violation of certain sentencing technicalities.

The high court started with the prosecution's cross-examination of Calvo. During that examination, the prosecutor repeatedly asked Calvo if the Commonwealth's witnesses had lied earlier in the trial. The high court concluded these questions were improper but ultimately harmless because most of the questions were blocked through objection and the others were cured by the trial court, which issued an instruction telling the jury to disregard the questions.

The Supreme Court then turned to the substance of the sentence. In particular, Calvo alleged his eight-year sentence was excessive because the evidence did not include aggravating factors such as nudity, penetration, or attempted penetration. The high court disagreed because the sentence was within the permissible statutory range and because the crime was egregious.

Finally, the high court looked at the form of the sentence; namely, whether the restitution order was vague and whether the probation, restitution, and community-service aspects of the sentence complied with the sentencing statute's procedural requirements. The high court justices held that the restitution order was vague because it was not clear how long Calvo would have to pay for his daughter's counseling. The high court also held that the sentence needed redoing because it imposed probation, restitution, and community serve without suspending some of Calvo's jail term.

The Supreme Court's full opinion is *Commonwealth v. Calvo*, 2014 MP 7, and can be found at http://www.cnmi-law.org/supreme14.html. ***(NMI Judiciary)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Saipan Fishermen's Association member Diego Benavente, SFA president Gene Weaver, SFA vice president Tony Scragg, and SFA secretary/treasurer Martin Duenas express their appreciation to Marian Aldan-Pierce, DFS president, for its major sponsorship of the 30th annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

Fishermen's association thanks DFS Saipan

Gene Weaver, president of the Saipan Fishermen's Association, expressed appreciation to DFS Saipan for contributing more than $7,000 in cash and in-kind to the 30th Saipan International Fishing Tournament, held on July 19-20, 2014.

Weaver said, "DFS Saipan has been a major sponsor of the SFA tournaments for many years, not only with monetary and in-kind support, but also by providing assistance from their operations manager, Mr. Wolf Mojica, as an active member of the SFA."

He added, "For more than 20 years, Wolf was the chairman of the SFA solicitation committee, and it was through his hard work that the SFA was able to garner great prizes for the tournaments." Mojica has since relocated to Hawaii as a DFS manager at the Honolulu airport.

SFA registered 60 boats with more than 200 fishermen (and fisherwomen) who competed in the 30th annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

The boat named *Goru* with captain Frank Roberto and crew members, Aaron Roberto and Frank Meno, from Guam, won the grand prize with their catch of a 276-lb Pacific blue marlin. ***(SFA)***

Century Tours, Inc.
Is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Operations Supervisor (1)
High School Diploma, GED, or equivalent. At least three (3) years work experience as a tour operations staff in a tour/travel agency, preferably with at least two (2) years of experience supervising a team of tour sales agents. Must be able to speak and write in Chinese (Mandarin) for China market.

Operations Assistant (1)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent. At least two (2) years office experience in tour operation or sales or service related work. Must be computer-literate and able to speak and write in Chinese (Mandarin) for China market.

Operations Clerk (2)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent. At least one (1) year office experience in travel or tour operation or sales or service based work environment. Must be computer-literate and able to speak and write in Chinese (Mandarin) for China market.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr_ctr@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than August 1, 2014. Applications for Employment are available at the Human Resources Department located at the Century Tours Office, Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Century Tours is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons
with Disabilities are urged to apply.

POI Aviation invites qualified US worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Airport Service (Passenger Service) Agent (13 Full-time / 2 Part-time)

High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 4 years experience in passenger or customer service. Assists passengers by answering inquiries regarding flight information/booking/reservations, checking-in out-bound passengers and luggage and assisting them in boarding flights, assisting in-bound passengers through immigration and customs. Must be computer-literate with excellent oral and written communication skills in both English and Chinese. Must be able to lift 70 pounds.

Airport Service (Cleaning) Agent (28 Full-time / 3 Part-time)

High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 2 years experience in aircraft exterior and interior cleaning. Performs interior cleaning of various aircraft to include cabins, lavatories and galleys. Must be knowledgeable in the use of different kinds of cleaning equipment, tools and materials.

Customer Service (Ramp/Cargo) Agent (9 Full-time / 4 Part-time)

High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 2 years experience in ramp cargo loading and unloading operations. Operates equipment for loading and off-loading baggage/cargo to and from the aircraft for both commercial and freight aircraft. Handles and accepts cargoes according to the IATA, FAA, TSA, local airport, airlines and company regulations. Prepares documents for out-going and transfer cargoes. Must be able to operate forklift and other cargo-handling equipment. Ability to learn how to operate specialized equipment for aircraft servicing and ramp operations. Must be able to lift 70 pounds.

Lead Aircraft Maintenance Technician (1)

Requires: AS Degree in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering with 4 years experience in airframe and power plant maintenance on both narrow and wide-body aircraft. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the manager, performing various repairs on aircraft airframe and power plants and other required services to ensure airworthiness. Must be skilled in use of specialized aircraft testing equipment and hold current U.S. FAA A&P License or an equivalent foreign license.

Interested applicants may send their applications to recruitment@poiaviation.com.
To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than August 4, 2014. Applications for employment are available at the Human Resources Department located at the POI Aviation Building on International Terminal LP, Saipan International Airport. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

POI Aviation is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 28, 2012

Water contamination discovered

Residents of select Saipan villages were warned yesterday to avoid using non-boiled water for consumption after bacteria was found in the water supply. Acting Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Alan Fletcher confirmed yesterday that a portion of the water system in the areas of Beach Road, from north of Pacific Islands Club to the San Antonio Church, along Afetnas Road, and Koblerville were found to have E. coli bacteria, which can make people sick, particularly those with weakened immune systems. E. coli is a fecal indicator bacteria; it can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have also shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

An unfulfilled promise

Editor's Note: The following is the statement of Philippine Ambassador to the U.S. Jose L. Cuisia Jr. on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the military order of U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt placing the Philippine Commonwealth Army under the U.S. Army. *Under and by virtue of the authority vested in me, as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, I hereby call and order into the service of the armed forces of the United States for the period of the existing emergency. all of the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines.—Franklin D. Roosevelt, July 26, 1941.* With these words and as war clouds loomed in the Pacific, members of the Philippine Commonwealth forces were conscripted into the service of the U.S. Armed Forces. Hundreds of thousands faithfully followed President Roosevelt's order and fought under the command of General MacArthur in the U.S. Armed Forces in the Far Eeast and in guerilla units organized and commanded by U.S. Army Officers. A day later on July 27 Gen. MacArthur issued General Order Number 1 assuming command of all U.S. forces in the Far East including all forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines.

Natibu, 670 Babes catch last bus to finals

Natibu and 670 Babes defeated separate foes last Thursday at the Capital Hill Ballfield to complete the finals cast in the Chamolinian Softball Association's 2nd Budweiser Softball League. Natibu secured the second and last finals berth in the men's field after knocking out Gagu Eyez, 10-7. The men's finale was played last night with Natibu scheduled to face Your Balls, which held a twice-to-beat advantage in the title duel. The women's championship was also set last night with 670 Babes and Sakudi battling for the crown. 670 Babes ousted Enamo Meta, 14-12, last Thursday for a finals date against defending champion Sakudi, which held a twice-to-beat edge in last night's title showdown. Before losing to 670 Babes, Enamo Meta won and eliminated the Rookies, 14-7.

CW permit holders share 'frustration, confusion' on travel applications

When Jershwin Angeles, a Commonwealth-only worker permit holder, applied for parole to travel to Guam earlier this month, he said he was told by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services-Saipan office to apply for a $360 advance parole but when he did, his application was denied by USCIS-Guam office. The Guam office of USCIS told him to apply instead for parole at the USCIS office on Saipan. Angeles finally secured parole from USCIS-Saipan office on Friday, the same day he left for Guam for a football coach training. "It's frustrating, confusing, and the requirements they were telling me seemed inconsistent," Angeles told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview. "I wonder how many more feel this way about the requirements for travel to Guam. I was only following their instructions. It seems there's no coordination, and USCIS Guam and Saipan seemed to have different sets of rules or policies. But I'm glad I was finally allowed to go to Guam using parole." Angeles, who has been working on Saipan for seven years, said he has yet to find out whether he could get back the $360 he paid for an advance parole application.

7 CNMI graduates are awarded scholarships

Palacios

Madeloso

M. Kapileo

Corpuz

Borja

Atalig

C. Kapileo

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Seven students from the CNMI were awarded the Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund.

Six students from Saipan and one student from Rota were among hundreds of recipients from 31 states, American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, and Armed Forces locations across the world.

The CNMI recipients are Amery Jane Madeloso, Bertran Palacios, Jamie Borja, Magdiel Corpuz, Chakhrit Kapileo, Marielle Kapileo, and Maricel Atalig.

According to the scholarship organization's website, the scholars represent many of the diverse groups within the Asian and Pacific Islander community.

Saipan Southern High School graduate Marielle Kapileo expressed gratitude to organizations like the APIASF that assist students with their college expenses.

"We all know college comes with a price tag. So every penny counts. Being a recipient of the APIASF and Wells Fargo scholarship is a blessing," she said. "I intend to make every penny worth it."

Kapileo,who will be attending LoneStar College, Cyfair, intends to major in Pre-Medical studies.

Fellow Manta Ray alumnus Bertran Palacios received the APIASF and AT&T Foundation Scholarship. He will be attending Tacoma Community College and plans to study Broadcast Journalism.

Marianas High School graduates Magdiel Corpuz, Amery Jane Madeloso, and Jamie Borja received the scholarship with contributions from Wells Fargo as well.

Madeloso will be studying Finance at Northern Marianas College. Borja, who intends to major in Physiology, will be studying under the roofs of the University of Guam. Corpuz, who will be studying at UOG, will be seeking a major in Business Administration.

Kagman High School graduate Chakhrit Kapileo will be studying Criminal Justice at Chaminade University. The Saipan student received the APIASF scholarship in collaboration with Wells Fargo.

The sole Rota scholarship recipient, Maricel Atalig, will be studying Nursing at the University of Guam. Atalig's APIASF is in collaboration with the Coca-Cola Foundation Scholarship.

Nearly 50 percent of those who receive the scholarship will be the first in their family to go to college.

The scholarship fund ranges between $2,500 and $15,000 from different corporations and is a sister foundation with the Gates Millennium Scholarship.

Sea search for man missing off A. Samoa is suspended

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa—The U.S. Coast Guard suspended the search Saturday for 58-year-old Babar Suleman who went missing during a plane crash near Pago Pago on Tuesday night.

"The decision to suspend a search and rescue case is one of the most difficult decisions I have to make," said Rear Adm. Cari Thomas, commander, 14th Coast Guard District. "I want to extend my sincere condolences to the family and friends of the Sulemans. After conducting an exhaustive search with our partner agencies in American Samoa and crisscrossing more than 4,000 miles from the air and surface of the ocean and finding no sign of Mr. Suleman, I have made the decision to suspend the active search."

The Coast Guard search consisted of an HC-130 Hercules airplane crew from Air Station Barbers Point, members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the American Samoa Marine Patrol, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, and tug *Sa'ilele*.

The cumulative amount of area searched is 4,874 square nautical miles. Coast Guard and partner agency assets have been searching for a total of 70 hours. ***(USCG)***

CTSI Logistics is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Sales & Marketing Manager
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Sales or Marketing or any Business course and at least 3 years of managerial work experience are required as well as an extensive knowledge and experience in supply chain and freight brokerage. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Can work flexible hours. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Proficiency in freight forwarding, shipping and household goods operations are a must. Must be familiar with freight forwarding software.

Logistics Manager
Graduate of 4-year degree course and with at least 6 years management experience in the logistics business with emphasis on airfreight, ocean freight forwarding, warehousing and fuel hauling operations. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation, Environmental and Occupational Safety Hazards is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, Emergency Response, IICL (Container and Chassis), Petroleum Standard Operating Procedure and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Accounting Manager
Graduate of 4-year degree course in accounting with at least 5 years experience in financial management: directing the preparation of financial reports; implementing cash management; and directing investment activities for a logistics supply chain business operations. Must have excellent written communication and analysis skills for financial data reporting. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, freight forwarding, shipping and logistics software are a must. Expertise with MS Excel, Word and Power Point is required. Must be able to work under time pressure and can work flexible hours.

Accountant
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Accounting with at least 3 years work experience in financial management for a logistics/supply chain business or agency operations. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, freight forwarding, shipping and logistics systems. Must have expertise with MS Excel, Word and Power Point. Must be able to work under time pressure and can work flexible hours.

Storage and Distribution Supervisor
Associate's Degree with at least 3 years of distribution and warehousing supervisory experience. Knowledge of household goods handling and airfreight and oceanfreight operations is required. Proficiency in Warehouse management system software is required. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, IICL (Container and Chassis) and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Shipping Supervisor
Associate's Degree and at least 3 years of shipping, receiving and warehousing supervisory experience is required. Proficiency in shipping operations, shipping documentation & cargo management system software is required. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation, 49 CFR & IMDG Code is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, IICL (Container and Chassis) and Vehicle Safety Guidelines. Knowledge of bill of ladings, scheduling and planning inbound and outbound shipments is a must.

Transportation Supervisor
Associate's Degree and at least 3 years of logistics and trucking operations supervisory experience is required. Must be knowledgeable in transportation and safety regulations and proficient in various logistic software. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, Emergency Response, IICL (Container and Chassis), Petroleum Standard Operating Procedure and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Freight Forwarding Supervisor
Associate's Degree with at least 3 years experience in freight forwarding operations and 1-year experience in transportation security and communication related activities. Knowledge of TSA security regulations and proficiency in TSA Known Shipper Management System are a must. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation and IATA related trainings. Proficiency in airfreight documentation, freight forwarding software, FEDEX systems and operations are a must. Must be familiar with airline operations and regulations.

Sales Officer
Associate's Degree in Sales or Marketing and at least 3 years work related experience are required as well as an extensive knowledge and experience in supply chain and freight brokerage. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Can work flexible hours. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Proficiency in freight forwarding, shipping and household goods operations are a must. Must be familiar with freight forwarding software.

Cargo and Freight Agent (5)
Associate's Degree with a minimum of 2 years experience in a logistics, freight brokerage or warehouse services business. Must know how to operate a forklift with certification. Must be able to do strenuous work with some lifting and carrying of small items on the job. Licensed to drive 4x6 wheel closed vans and must have obtained training or certification in handling hazardous materials, Occupational Safety, Hazardous Waste Operation and IAC CCSF authorized screener. Must be proficient in MS Office and Oracle-based programs and available to work on evenings and weekend hours.

Specialized Truck Driver (7)
High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Must have at least 3 years experience in hauling petroleum products with the corresponding SMITHS & STOPS training certification, carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

Heavy Equipment Truck Driver (3)
High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Experience in carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

Shipping and Receiving Clerk (5)
Associate's Degree and at least 2 years work related experience. Must be proficient in MS Office programs as well as other planning and logistics software. Knowledge of supply chain, shipping operations and procedures, document preparation and recordkeeping is required. Should possess good interpersonal and verbal communication skills.

Truck Mechanic
Vocational or High School Graduate. Must be able to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul trucks, or maintain and repair any type of engines. Minimum of two (2) year work experience is required on these areas: lubrication, repairs and servicing, use of machine tools, welding and flame cutting, engine elements, gears, brakes, transmission, exhausts, etc. Proficiency in critical devices for fuel tank trucks is a must.

Automotive Body Repairer
Formal Auto Body Training in a Vocational School is required as well as a minimum of one-year experience in repairing and refinishing automotive vehicle bodies' vehicle frames. Proficiency in automotive body painting is required.

Janitor
Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume / application to CTSI Logistics, Lower Base not later than August 01, 2014.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

Is inviting qualified U.S. Citizens to apply for the following vacant positions

Position: (2) SOUS CHEF
Qualifications: Ability to direct and participate in the preparation and cooking of food. Must be able to work a variable schedule on occasion, including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends. 5 years work experience as a Sous Chef is required and preferably in the hospitality industry.

Position: (2) BARTENDER
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent with minimum 2 years work experience in the preparation of mixed cocktails required. Strong communication and interpersonal skills are essential. Able to work flexible hours including evenings and/or weekends.

Position: (2) F&B SUPERVISOR
Qualifications: Strong customer service skills and people oriented. Must be reliable and self-motivated. Is able to stand for long periods of time and lift up to 25 pounds. Minimum 3 years work experience as F&B supervisor preferably in a hotel. Foreign language skill a plus. Must be able to work a variable schedule on occasion, including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Position: (1) LANDSCAPING SUPERVISOR
Qualifications: Able to directly supervise and coordinate activities and work schedule of employees engaged in landscaping and grounds keeping activities. Must have 3 years previous work experience, preferably in a hotel. Must be a high school graduate or equivalent.

Position: (1) PAINTER
Qualifications: 2 years work experience as a painter. Must have an eye for detail and good judgment. Must be able to carry and lift up to 35 pounds without any assistance. Able to work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Position: (2) PLUMBER
Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years of plumbing experience preferably in a hotel or similar large building or complex with central plant. Knowledge of the tools, equipment and materials common to the plumbing trade is required. Must be able to carry and lift heavy objects. Willingness to work outside (if necessary) in inclement weather.

Position: (2) Steward Supervisor
Qualifications: Requirements: 3 years experience in stewarding; 1 year stewarding supervisor experience. Must be able to work long hours and handle pressure. Must have strong knowledge of sanitation procedure and health codes and implementation.

Position: (1) GENERAL ACCOUNTANT
Qualifications: College graduate, Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, major in accounting preferred. 4 years progressive work experience as an accountant. Must be computer literate and proficient in accounting software application particularly SAP, R3 and FICO. Must have strong organizational skills and team player. Must be able to work under pressure and flexible to work a schedule including weekends and holidays when required.

Position: (1) ACCOUNTING ANALYST- Accounts Payable/Disbursements
Qualifications: College graduate, Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, major in accounting is preferred. 3 years progressive accounts payable and general accounting experience. Strong knowledge of relevant computer software application particularly SAP, R3 and FICO. Proficient in data entry and management. Must have strong problem and communication skills. Attention to detail and accuracy is essential. Must be able to work under pressure. Able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays when required.

Position: (2) ACCOUNTING ANALYST – Accounts Receivable
Qualifications: College graduate, Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, major in accounting preferred. 3 years progressive experience in accounts receivable operations. Must have strong knowledge of relevant computer software application particularly SAP, R3 and FICO. Proficient in data entry and management. Must have strong problem and communication skills. Attention to detail and accuracy is essential. Must be able to work under pressure. Able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays when required.

Position: (1) COST ACCOUNTANT
Qualifications: Generally responsible for ensuring that food and beverage costs are within hotel standards. Renders regular reporting of food and beverage costs to management. Calculates food cost of regular menu items and assists banquet department in costing special banquet menus. Witness/participates in the periodic physical inventory counts and reports to immediate supervisor for any major discrepancies. Bachelor's Degree in accounting, business or finance is preferred. Minimum of 3 years work experience as cost accountant preferably in a hotel. Proficient in computer software application particularly SAP, R3 and FICO. Able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holiday when required.

Position: (1) PURCHASING SUPERVISOR
Qualifications: College graduate, Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, major in accounting preferred. Minimum of 3 years progressive work experience as a purchasing supervisor preferably in a hotel or a fast-paced environment. Ability to make judgments regarding alternative means of procuring materials/goods or services based on cost and serviceability. Ability to pay close attention to detail with a high degree of accuracy. Ability to adapt to changes in work environment, work assignments, and/or changes in priorities. Proficient in Microsoft Office applications and other software particularly SAP, R3 and FICO. Experienced with inventories to include, but not limited to, Food and Beverage, Dry goods, and Housekeeping Cleaning & Guest Supplies is a requirement. Willing to work flexible schedule on occasion including weekends.

Applications can be obtained at the Security Office at the Hotel's South Wing.
To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than July 29, 2014.
Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Keeping the Cold War buried

The following editorial appeared in the Los Angeles Times *on Friday, July 25:*

International outrage over the downing of a Malaysian passenger plane over Ukraine on July 17 does not appear to have affected either the actions of pro-Russia forces in that country or the material support Russia is offering the rebels. On Wednesday, the separatists apparently shot down two Ukrainian warplanes flying near the border with Russia. Then on Thursday, the U.S. accused Russia of firing artillery from its territory into Ukraine.

If Russia continues to abet the Ukrainian armed resistance, it must pay a price, as even European nations previously reluctant to impose significant sanctions are beginning to realize. This week the Europeans moved toward expanding sanctions directed at Russian officials and organizations linked to the rebellion in eastern Ukraine, and they are considering following the lead of the U.S. and imposing sanctions against sectors of the Russian economy, including defense and energy.

But some American politicians and policymakers would go beyond economic and diplomatic efforts and provide the Ukrainian government with military support. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., has implored the Obama administration "to give the Ukrainians weapons with which to defend themselves." That would be a mistake.

It's not clear that the Obama administration is seriously considering McCain's advice. The U.S. has provided food, body armor and uniforms to Ukraine and has promised to deliver medical supplies and night-vision goggles as well. This week the Washington Times quoted a Pentagon spokesman as saying that the U.S. also planned "to support the Ukrainian military through subject-matter expert teams and long-term advisors."

If by "advisors" the administration means computer experts and payroll managers, that's one thing. But deploying "advisors" who are military strategists or uniformed soldiers would be reckless and provocative. So would providing Ukraine with lethal weapons.

A proxy war between the United States and Russia would be dangerous even if it didn't lead to a direct military confrontation between the two nuclear powers. It also would undermine Obama's insistence that the U.S., while it supports Ukraine's sovereignty and independence, doesn't regard it as part of a Cold War chess game with Russia.

Finally, although it obviously continues to encounter resistance, Ukraine is gradually gaining military control of rebel-held areas on its own. Russia could help end the fighting if it stopped its interference and incitement. As long as it refuses to do so, the U.S. and its allies should keep up the pressure—but stay off the battlefield.

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IT'S LOOKING QUITE GRIM FOR OBAMACARE...
OBAMACARE IS THE PICTURE OF HEALTH!
CLEARLY, I NEED A THIRD OPINION...
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD
KOTERBA

One year, one page

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

One of my outputs this year is a bio-profile I wrote for my grandchildren, dubbed as a "personal memoir" by others. As a language teacher, I am familiar of ways that others use to write a memoir. A known writer even reflected on the process of writing hers. I am not much of a standard-form devotee!

Being a creature in the meta-brain format of Europe that is biased for the sense of time over the engaging spread of space, I adopted a "one-year, one-page" format (rather than one place, one phase) for ease of writing, definitely easier on the reader. I adopt the same brevity format on handouts in my classroom pedagogy. I always counsel those who prepare a CV to focus on a straightforward one-page write-up. Interest is generated by one-page, or there is no interest at all.

I vowed to write these next few years on the metaphor of a seven-year itch. The one-year, one-page format is recommended but the reflection is more important than the form. The limit I imposed on myself is simply to get me disciplined in writing, though the product is no less authentic.

I've used the metaphor of 86-year-long existence. I mentioned my choice before and I will rehearse it once more. My Dad beckoned to the Mililani memorial call in 2007, when he completed his 95th year of existence. My mother will reach her 94th this September and she lies at the hospice care of Kuakini in Honolulu. She is medically incapable of caring for herself in her own dwelling anymore and so she needs to be close to a hospital facility for medical attention. Genetics is on my side for longevity, but I smoked my Marlboros for more than a decade before I cold-turkey'd so I am lopping off a decade off my statistical probability on longevity. I also think that one-moment-in-time of 86 years is an adequate period for decisional self-consciousness.

Some of my colleagues say that having an image of one's journey is fine, but I need not write about it. The self-reliance upsets others whose stories rely on faithfulness to and dependence on cosmic powers, gracious or benign, or on a nebulous sense of "fate and destiny," with all its foreboding and anticipation.

The arrival point at self-consciousness is at birth. Some say that it happens later because they mark it when the mental map of the created "self" forms later rather than the actual reflexes in Mama's womb on touch, sound, smell and taste. Maybe the seeing only happens at birth when one is finally out into the light, but my point is, the wealth of sense experiences and perceptions is well on its way by the time we wail our first at the doctor's definitive smack on our *heine.*

The self-consciousness journey that started in '45 has a departure point projected for Dec. 15, 2031. There is no explanation for that choice save my personal neurosis, so we need not go there. The import, however, is that I can be intentional about life's journey even if it is totally shrouded in infinite mystery in relationship to the total scheme of the cosmic journey.

The distance between arrival and departure is my sole responsibility, a point I have made and repeated so many times in this column, if only to impress one and all that our propensity to whine in the social sphere is to naught; it relies on getting others to behave the way we expect them to act rather than informing them on how we behave in the event that they may choose to follow our example. In my experience, protest is ineffective and the blame-game has short therapeutic value of self-serving nature.

One might raise the cause of human communication, a civilizational invention since Ugado the hunter-gatherer uttered *'ugh-a-yah'* over Ugada's dinner, when discourse was attempted as a mode of sharing feelings and exchanging ideas. Again, these are fine as long as we are not stuck in thinking that somehow relentless management of words and numbers attains a clear correspondence between symbol and reality on a one-to-one basis. We know that human metaphors trump dead formulations produced in academia at the altar of precision for professional certification!

So, I will stick to my one-year, one-page format for seven years before we exit the writing mode, hoping to narrate aspects of my journey in 10 forms rehearsed in a previous column. It would be a mistake to view our effort as achieving some goal. Our arrival at birth already equipped us with all that we need to unfold, like a pupa to a butterfly, a seed to a plant, a germ to a breath. A lot of energy is expended on our striving to attain more, either in wealth or social status. That is not my path.

The possibilities on my blooming are limitless and it is foolish to be anxious about it, let alone compare it to the journey of Ugado so I can feel better for being ahead. Duh!

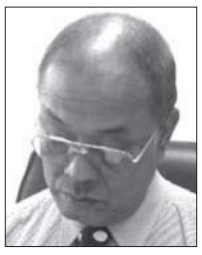
One-year, one-page is "I, me, and myself" in journey. It is similar to that of everyone else's including Ugada's except I write my recollection. The question is not how well I narrate it from the gaze and gauge of others for I unfold without apology. It will serve readers' interest to stick to their own narrating, too.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Hello! Everbody home?

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



My uncle has his own version of conversational English. He'd come to the house and begins with, "Hello! Everbody home?" I know the voice and that I'd be stuck listening to his outmoded ideas for four hours a pop.

He addresses the economy and asserts that tons of bananas could be shipped to Japan and Asia. I'd explain that it has to be Chequita banana or something close to it, if not better. Otherwise, even the wild boars in Japan would skip it in favor of home grown pelletized feed.

But do I expect him to understand that the issue deals with applied technology and marketing. His understanding of bananas is the local variety grown here since our ancestral days. Families consume some while the rest is boiled for pig food. Hell, even snorting hoofs would protest if fed such feed two days in a row!

He has no conception about applied technology and its relationship with product improvement. His marketing view is limited to the defunct Saipan Farmers Market and the ongoing Sabalu Market. He's convinced his arcane views could work!

I'm not knocking his views given that it's tethered to his experience before the war. But it requires a lot of legwork that must begin with a set of plans resolving what type of bananas are in fact marketable nearby. Upon securing such information, is it something that is feasible and could we in fact meet demand?

The Philippines exports a certain banana to a given region in Japan. It's a successful venture where it even researches, through a survey, if it meets customer taste. It has since reduced its sweetness and aroma. It continues to be a successful trade to this day. You see, the Philippines is fully equipped with applied technology dealing with both farm and sea produce.

Its coconut industry is a $9-billion sector, though it may have slowed down after a major storm-related destruction to its plantation. But it shows the good that could be reaped seeking help how it has successfully established a globally thriving coconut industry. Interesting that the most expensive coconut oil marketed in Japan is the one boiled the old-fashioned way. Doesn't this stir your imagination as a possibility and opportunity?

My uncle would wrap our discussion echoing how times have changed and the new culture of *mañana* that has choked families in these isles into despair.

Illness: Governmenitis!

In church, a voice asked a troubling question about an historic illness that persists to this day Marianas-wide. Tried to ignore it. But it kept creeping back into mind.

Another voice asserted, "It's governmenitis!" It's newly coined word, though it has been around for nearly a century. Conceptually, it's about "everything is government." Our reliance on government was born after the war. It remains the largest employer, if not employment industry, to date.

Imagine if we could employ ingenuity to manufacture government models. A lot of our products would be highly suspect and unreliable for obvious reasons. I'm not sure our prospective clientele would be enamored looking into the history of the CNMI's bankruptcy of recent past. On this score alone we would be forced to recall our government model and even be fined for peddling a faulty product.

Not everything in our so-called government model would be negative. It should present a lesson to draw from, e.g., how to steer clear of bankruptcy! The more critical issue on policy formulation would equally suffer negative review. Take a quick glimpse of the local economy to assess what policies do we have to navigate the ship of bankruptcy out of the harbor of persistent lack of buoyancy.

Even more egregious is our special ability promoting policy instability and lack of credibility. Obviously, the inadequacies lead right back to the caliber of policymakers we place to guide growth in these isles. What growth? And so this chapter ought to offer some pleasant reading, if only because it's good fodder for comedy! Where in hell do you find a unique ability "advancing to the rear"?

We'd probably contract migraine headaches if perchance we devote a chapter explaining, in plain English, why the NMI needs an integrated and comprehensive socio-economic plan. If policymakers find such material way above their heads, please excuse their abecedarian level. Then you the voter should re-examine why nepotism in elections doesn't help the CNMI by any stretch of the imagination. We need to outgrow this corrosive and regressive attitude! A lot remains to be changed in the malignancy of governmenitis. And it begins with exercising a sense of responsibility when you next go to the polls this November.

Did someone say impact?

The usual "advance to the rear" syndrome reveals itself, time and again, in the recent approval of a casino industry here. Casino proponents are now spouting (a day late and dollar short) of the impact of this monstrosity in the near term. Ignoring due diligence is now habitual!

Well, if the industry were built up north (Marpi) then there would be three huge projects that would require huge sums of federal dollars for the emplacement of basic infrastructure, e.g., water, power, sewer, and roads. Interesting the warp and latent view that we now must be cautious of its impact to the immediate community like As Matuis, San Roque, and Tanapag. We've missed our ship called "planning" time and again, huh?

With $60 million available for CIP, is there a chance the entire amount would be earmarked for basic infrastructure up north? Would Tinian and Rota surrender their share? After all, its delegations were proponents of Saipan casino. No rocket science either! When would we ever "plan for" our future over the newly honed method of "plan by" eventualities?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why a divert airfield on Tinian?

The military has long used Guam as the primary airfield here in the Marianas since the Korean War and the Vietnam War and continues to use it for this purpose to date.

The military is now proposing to build a divert airfield either on Saipan or Tinian. The purpose of a divert airfield is to serve as an alternate airfield in the event that the primary airfield is compromised and no longer useable. A Record of Decision by the military on the divert airfield is forthcoming sometime next year but they seem more inclined to choose Saipan due to infrastructure (harbor, roads, airfield) and budgetary issues. But choosing Saipan for these reasons seem very shortsighted from a tactical standpoint.

In the event of a war, the federal government can exercise its eminent domain power to commandeer the infrastructure (seaport, road systems, and airport) on Saipan for military use, overruling any CNMI issues or concerns. So in essence, Saipan can easily and automatically be used as a divert airfield.

If the military chooses Tinian for its divert airfield, then it will logically have two divert airfields (Tinian and Saipan) in time of war, thus giving it three airfields: Guam, Tinian, and Saipan. In choosing Saipan for its divert airfield, it will only end up having two airfields (Guam and Saipan) since it did not invest and build the infrastructure facilities needed on Tinian to potentially serve as a divert airfield.

From a tactical standpoint, it seems more logical to have three airfields instead of just two, because it will be much harder for the enemy to make three strikes in a row than two strikes. Although I have no military training or experience in tactical warfare, I can tell you from a hunter's point of view that it's easier to hit one or two ducks in a row than to hit three ducks in a row. A bowler will also tell you that it is much harder make three strikes in a row than two strikes. From this point of view, it seems more logical to build the divert airfield on Tinian instead of Saipan, regardless of cost.

I read in the local papers that U.S. Congress has appropriated nearly $30 million for the divert airfield, and that Saipan is the preferred choice by the military due to its limited budget and because much of the needed infrastructure (harbor and road system) is already in place. If Tinian were the preferred choice, the military will need a lot more than just $30 million. But $30 million is actually a good amount of down payment to at least start rehabilitating the dilapidated harbor on Tinian, which is in dire need of restoration anyway.

When Uncle Sam decided to launch the atomic bombs from Tinian during World War II, the infrastructure (harbor, roads, airfield) needed to fulfill this mission was built at all costs around the clock. If the military can spend $1 billion a day fighting a war in Iraq, then the cost of putting the divert airfield on Tinian is just a drop in the bucket.

I was near the Saipan airport one day when only six Air Force fighter jets were conducting exercises there and I can tell you that my ears were ringing from the excessive noise pollution those jets were making. Imagine the amount of noise pollution when multiplying this number by 3three or four times more fighter jets. Although I'm fortunate I don't live near the airport, I feel sorry for all those who live around those areas, including the many tourists at nearby resorts and sightseeing spots who had to bear with all that loud noise. A divert airfield on Saipan will not only limit further commercial development for the Commonwealth Ports Authority, but will affect real estate values, historical sites and tourist sites in that area.

The good people of the CNMI have made a great sacrifice in giving up two-thirds of the island of Tinian for military use which includes building a divert airfield, but the federal government seems to be reneging on its commitment under the Covenant Agreement to use Tinian and to help develop the CNMI's economic wellbeing; something that is greatly needed in these trying times.

Perhaps we need to launch strong community opposition and protests against Saipan being the preferred choice, because like they say; "it's the squeaky wheel that gets the grease" and hope that our President of Hope and Change will hear us.

Tony Calvo
Death Valley, Saipan

What if you face the problems CWs face here

"You should clap for those young people," Vice President Biden said. "Can you imagine the pain, the anxiety, coming home every day wondering whether or not your mother and father will still be there? Can you imagine what it must feel like?"

Joe Biden was speaking about Hispanics in the U.S. but he might as well be speaking about the CWs in the CNMI. The 50 people that have controlled politics in the CNMI since 1978 created the problems we face today and now they try to blame the U.S., the CWs themselves, and the outside influence of haoles and other rabble rousers for the problem. You people created it and now you refuse to take ownership of the problem and fix it. If you do nothing, you will still be voted out in a few years anyway just by the sheer number of U.S. citizens in the CNMI and you will be hated for the way you have conducted yourselves for the past 36 years. If you own up to the problems you created, fix them and move forward, you will be remembered as statesmen, far-sighted leaders, and revered around the barbecue table in years to come. Imagine your relatives leaving the CNMI, not with a U.S. passport, not with an FSM or Palau or Marshall Islands passport and not being able to go to the States, but having to go to Dubai or Turkey or somewhere they are treated like you treat the CWs here. Think about it. When you diminish others, you diminish yourselves.

JKPL, it's 2014, don't buy old technology

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is apparently thinking of using its $11,000 donation from the Hyatt to install old, outdated and, in my opinion, useless hardware for ConnectEd.

The ConnectED Initiative announced by President Obama on June 6, 2013 sets four clear goals to transition to digital learning across the country in five years. The two goals of the four are "Supported Teachers" and "Digital Learning Resources" but these two are the most important: *Upgraded Connectivity: Ensure next-generation broadband and high-speed wireless is available to virtually all of America's students in their classrooms and libraries.* JKPL has high-speed wireless now on Saipan. If Tinian and Rota don't have it, Docomo or IT&E can install it. *Access to Learning Devices: Ensure students and teachers have access to affordable mobile devices to access digital learning resources at any time inside and outside of the classroom.* Touch screen tablets is what JKPL needs and that's all they need. Kids and adults learn to use them in 20 minutes, and they are affordable mobile devices. I urge JKPL to just buy touch screen tablets. They cost way under $100 each and are exactly what President Obama is talking about. To connect to Tinian or Rota, just push the Facetime App Icon. We don't need a digital village at JKPL, we need a digital CNMI.

Gary DuBrall
Chaln Piao, Saipan

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. West winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. West winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. West winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. West winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲84° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼79°

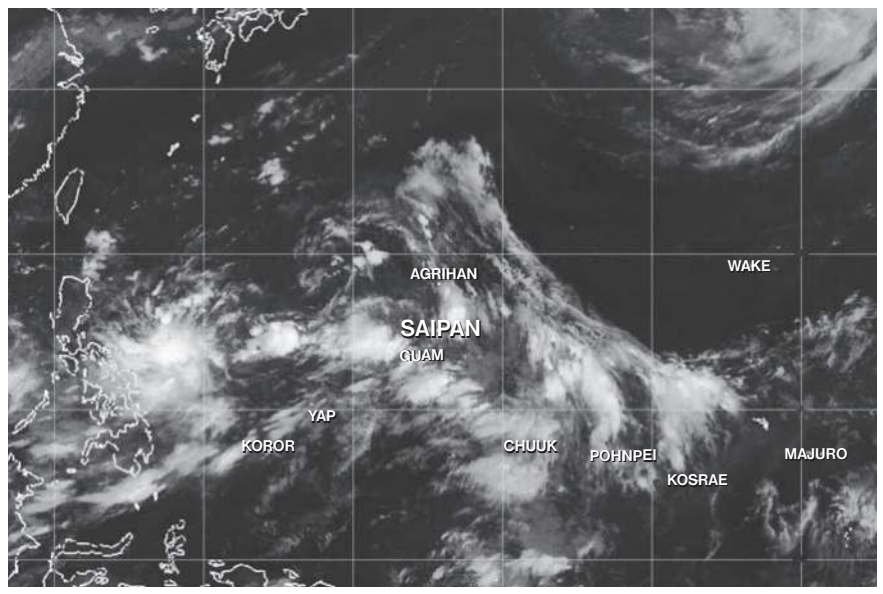
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲56	▼47
Beijing	Sunny	▲97	▼73
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲85	▼79
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼77
London	Showers	▲72	▼57
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲90	▼68
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼76
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼48
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼78
New York	Thundershowers	▲87	▼72
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼71
Paris	Showers	▲72	▼58
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼71
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼68
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼52
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲74	▼57
Seoul	Sunny	▲85	▼68
Tokyo	Showers	▲85	▼71
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲89	▼72

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A tropical disturbance is centered northwest of Yap at 12N133E. A monsoon trough extends northeastward from the disturbance to near Saipan at 16N145E then southeastward through the center of another disturbance north of Pohnpei at 9N158E. The trough then meanders eastward across the Marshall Islands to beyond the date line at 8N180. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms northwest of Koror are west of a line from 15N133E to 10N133E. Patchy areas of scattered showers with a few thunderstorms from across the Mariana Islands to Yap, Chuuk and Pohnpei states are between 24N and the equator from 138E to 160E. Scattered showers just north of Kosrae and across Kwajalein atoll are between 14N and 6N from 160E to 170E and across Majuro and the eastern Marshall Islands to Tarawa are between 14N and the equator from 170E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:44 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
8:42 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
3:52 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.1 Feet
10:29 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:58 AM	6:49 PM
Tuesday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Wednesday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Thursday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:59 AM	6:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:46 AM	7:32 PM
Tuesday	7:33 AM	8:11 PM
Wednesday	8:20 AM	8:49 PM
Thursday	9:07 AM	9:28 PM
Friday	9:54 AM	10:06 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 28, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU7076	4:15am	6:50am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:45pm	1, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
D2 8009	12:50pm	4:05pm	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 5, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU7075	9:00pm	3:15am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	7:25pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:55pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Priest in Guam removed over molestation allegations

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Roman Catholic priest has been removed from his post in Guam over allegations that he molested two boys four decades ago while serving in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, church officials said Friday.

The Rev. John Howard Wadeson was stripped of his duties in the Archdiocese of Agana on Monday after concerns in the community there about his past and he has since left the U.S. territory, the Guam *Pacific Daily News* reported. Wadeson, whose current whereabouts are unknown, told the paper he was innocent and was leaving to protect his archbishop.

A 2004 report on clergy abuse issued by the Los Angeles archdiocese lists Wadeson as being credibly accused of molesting two people between 1973 and 1977, while he was working as a priest with the Divine Word Missionaries religious order. Wadeson was in the Los Angeles archdiocese between 1972 and 1985 and spent many of those years at Verbum Dei High School, an all-boys Catholic school.

Wadeson's religious order would have been responsible for dealing with the allegations at the time, said Monica Valencia, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles archdiocese.

In 2011, Wadeson asked the Los Angeles archdiocese for authorization to minister once more in Los Angeles because he was traveling in California.

The archdiocese refused and contacted archdiocese officials in Guam after learning he was working there, said archdiocese attorney Michael Hennigan. He said he did not know what was done with the information.

Wadeson made a similar request in San Francisco, which was granted. That archdiocese revoked Wadeson's faculties this week, San Francisco church officials said in a statement Friday.

Wadeson has not been named in any civil lawsuits.

Archdiocese of Agana officials did not respond to phone messages or emails in Guam, where it was already Saturday.

Air Force, Navy training at FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on Farallon de Medinilla during the following times:

- July 28, from 10:30am to 3:30pm
- July 29, from 9:30am to 2:30pm
- July 30, from 10:30am to 4:30pm
- July 31, from 9am to 2pm

The U.S. Navy will conduct training on Farallon de Medinilla on July 31, from 3pm to 11pm.

The general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(PR)***

Bordallo meets with Ass't Secretary Esther Kia'aina

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo meets with Assistant Secretary Esther Kia'aina to discuss issues important to Guam and the region. Kia'aina was confirmed by the Senate on June 26, 2014 to head the Office of Insular Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) met with Assistant Secretary Esther Kia'aina to discuss issues important to Guam and the region. Kia'aina was confirmed by the Senate on June 26, 2014, to head the Office of Insular Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

During the meeting, Bordallo raised a number of issues, including prioritizing Compact impact funding in the Interior's annual budget submission and providing technical assistance to the territories. She raised the concerns of Guam's insurance providers regarding possible premium increases from the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. The congresswoman reiterated the need to work with local policymakers and insurers so that the ACA can be implemented in a way that benefits consumers while addressing concerns raised by insurance providers and stakeholders.

Bordallo also emphasized the need to engage in the interagency process to make progress on extending parole authority to Chinese visitors while addressing security issues. She emphasized the need to expand Guam's tourism market to mainland China in order to ensure future growth in the visitor industry. The congresswoman also discussed the upcoming Economic Adjustment Committee meeting and urged Kia'aina to work with the Department of Defense to ensure that there is continued interagency support for investments in civilian infrastructure projects to support the buildup.

"I appreciated the opportunity to meet with Assistant Secretary Kia'aina as she begins her role as the head of the Office of Insular Affairs," said Bordallo. "There are a number of pressing issues affecting the territories, and Esther's leadership will be critical to addressing these challenges with the federal agencies. I look forward to working with her on issues important to our people." ***(PR)***

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB14-DPS-130
SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: AUGUST 13, 2014 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"NETWORK FIBER OPTIC SPECIALIZED TOOLS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

Copies of the Scope of Work may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposal; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
Commissioner of Public Safety

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

RFP NO.: RFQ14-CHCC(GSS)-121
SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 29, 2014 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"ON SITE MEDICAL AND CLINICAL WASTE SYSTEM FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

The Scope of Work will be available on or after July 28, 2014 at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at Lower Base Drive during regular working hours.

Questions regarding this project may be submitted to Mr. Albert I. Ichihara, General Support Services, via e-mail to ichiharaalbert@gmail.com no later than the close of business, August 15, 2014.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ ESTHER L. MUNA
Chief Executive Officer, CHCC

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Robert Ichiro Quitano
9300 Montana Ave. Apt#1020
El Paso TX, 79925
808-321-6215

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter of the Adoption of: **Jovina Lirosa Ichiro Quitano & Raybiana Joniz Ichiro Quitano** Minor Children, By: Robert Ichiro Quitano	) FCD AD) CIVIL ACTION) NO. 14-0294))) **NOTICE OF HEARING**)))))

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on August 18, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 7th day of July, 2014.

Patrick V. Diaz
/s/Clerk of Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioners

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR ADOPTION OF: D.P.M.J., A Minor Child. By: Freddy F. Peter and Antonina A. Datios,	**FCD-AD Civil Action No.: 14-0263** **NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR ADOPTION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Court shall hear the above entitled matter on this 4th day of August 2014, at 1:30 p.m., on the Petitioners Petition for Adoption in the above captioned matter.

Dated this 23rd day of June, 2014

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
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Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ROGELLIO C. FAUSTINO Petitioner versus SUSAN R. BALMACEDA-FAUSTINO Respondent	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 14-0166 **SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Ilmwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 9th day of April, 2014

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

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Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. TOMAS M. CALVO and CECILIA T. CALVO, Defendants.	**Civil Action No. 13-0071** **NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 17th day of October, 2013, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **11th day of August, 2014 at 10 a.m.**, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 008 R 11 situated in Songsong, Rota, (formerly known as Lot 4, Block 23), containing an area of 743 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 008 R 00, the original recorded 12 Nov 71 Doc. No. 1295 at Land Registry, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) to reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 27th day of May, 2014.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Business

Nation's fast food workers vow civil disobedience

VILLA PARK, Ill. (AP)—Comparing their campaign to the civil rights movement, fast food workers from across the country voted Saturday to escalate their efforts for $15-an-hour pay and union membership by using nonviolent civil disobedience.

More than 1,300 workers gathered in a convention in center in suburban Chicago to discuss the future of a campaign that has spread to dozens of cities in less than two years. Wearing T-shirts that said "Fight for $15" and "We Are Worth More," the workers cheered loudly and said they would win if they stuck together.

"People are just fed up," said Cindy Enriquez, 20, of Phoenix.

The $8.25 an hour she makes working for McDonald's is not enough to go to college and become a police officer and barely enough to pay her rent, Enriquez said.

While the vote didn't list any specific acts of civil disobedience, Enriquez said some workers suggested sit-ins and perhaps blocking businesses. She said they need to keep pressure on owners even if it means sitting in front of restaurants "to make sure they do not sell anything."

"We're going to keep on going," Enriquez said.

The Service Employees International Union has been providing financial and organizational support to the fast-food protests. They began in late 2012 in New York City and have included daylong strikes and a loud but peaceful demonstration outside this year's McDonald's Corp. shareholder meeting, where more than 130 protesters were arrested after stepping onto company property.

Saturday's convention in Villa Park, Illinois, included sessions on civil disobedience and leadership training. Kendall Fells, an organizing director for the campaign and a representative of SEIU, said when and what actions happen next will be up to workers in each city.

The Rev. William Barber II, head of the North Carolina NAACP, said the movement is young but as important as when civil disobedience efforts began during the early years of the civil rights movement.

"People should not work and be willing to work and then be denied living wages and be denied health care because of greed," Barber said.

"This movement is saying that America is less than she promises to be, morally and constitutionally, by denying living wages," Barber said. "If you raise wages for workers, you buoy the whole economy."

The campaign comes as President Barack Obama and many other Democrats across the country have attempted to make a campaign issue out of their call to increase the federal and state minimum wages.

The current federal minimum wage is $7.25 an hour, translating to about $15,000 a year for someone working 40 hours a week, though many fast-food workers get far fewer hours. Obama and others have called for increasing it to $10.10.

Fast food workers say even that's not enough because most people working in the industry now are adults with children, rather than teenagers earning pocket money. The restaurant industry has argued that a $15 hourly wage could lead to business closings and job cuts, though the Seattle City Council recently voted to raise the city's minimum wage to $15 an hour, phased in over several years.

The National Restaurant Association said last week that increasing wages to $15 will not solve income inequality and that the campaign was an attempt by unions to boost dwindling membership. Scott DeFife, the association's executive vice president of policy and government affairs, said protesters were "demonizing" an industry that employs workers of all ages, backgrounds and skill levels, when the focus should be on policies that increase education and job training.

But many people now are staying with fast-food restaurants for years, because they're often the only ones available, workers said.

Latoya Caldwell, a mother of four from Kansas City, Missouri, who earns $7.50 an hour at a Wendy's restaurant, said she works six days a week to get 40 hours and earn a $435 paycheck.

"I might pay the mortgage, but then not be able to pay the light bill or pay the gas bill. Then I have to wait until the next check and not able to buy shoes or not able to buy diapers," Caldwell said. "I just want to make sure we are able to live decent."

Barber said workers such as Caldwell, who's participated in three strikes, are putting a face on the campaign for better wages.

"This movement is intensifying and it is going to shake the moral consciousness of this country," he said.

AP

Fast food workers from across the U.S. attend a convention in Villa Park, Ill. on Saturday, July 26, 2014.

Profits at US airlines top $4B in Q2

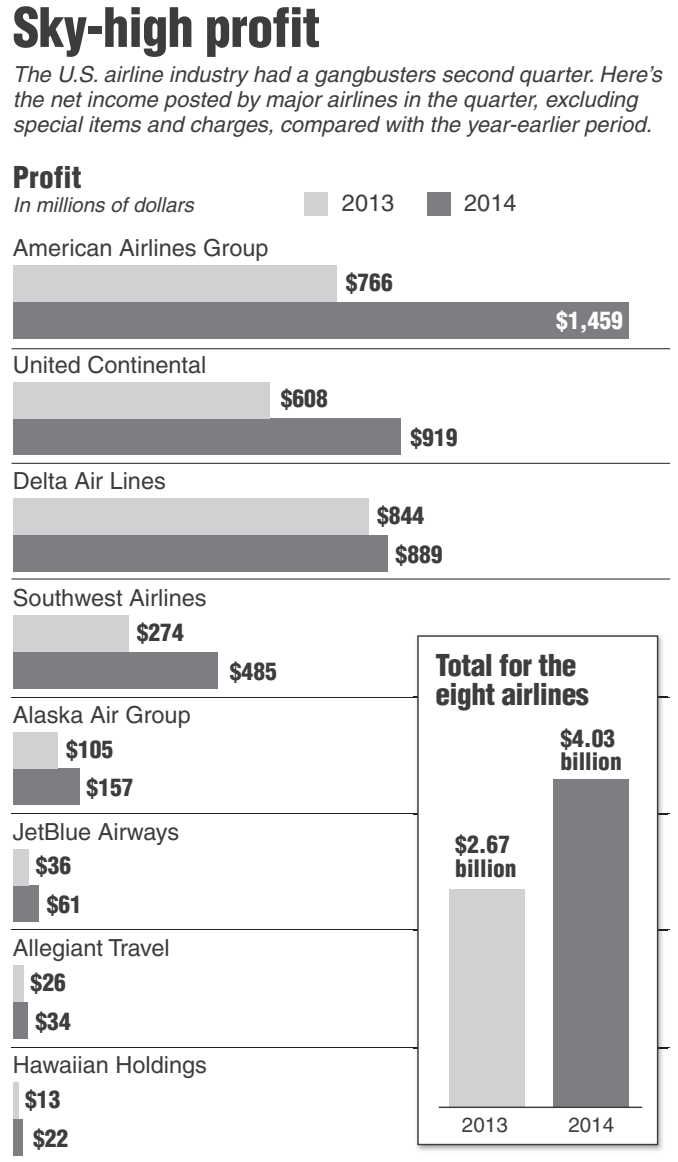
By TERRY MAXON
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

With the biggest carriers now reporting their results, the U.S. airline industry has indeed had a gangbuster second quarter. Net income exceeding one-time charges and special items have topped $4 billion.

American Airlines Group led the list with net income of $1.46 billion, followed by United Continental Holdings at $919 million and Delta Air Lines at $889 million.

With Southwest Airlines' $485 million, the Big Four have earnings $3.75 billion. Adding in four other airlines that have reported so far, net income ha totaled $4.03 billion.

Even under generally accepted accounting procedures, the airlines reporting so far have combined for $3.38 billion—$2.92 billion for the Big Four.



Nissan expands recall prompted by faulty air bag

NEW YORK (AP)—Nissan is recalling more than 226,000 additional vehicles over a defective air bag that has affected much of the global auto industry.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said Saturday that Nissan North America Inc. is recalling certain lines of its Infiniti, Maxima, Pathfinder and Sentra cars for the model years 2002 to 2004.

Faulty air bags have already been blamed for the recall of millions of cars around the world in recent years, including those made by BMW, Chrysler, Ford, Honda, Mazda and Toyota.

The air bag systems were made by Takata Corp., a Tokyo-based supplier of car parts. The problem is that the air bag inflators can rupture, causing metal fragments to fly out when the air bags are deployed in crashes. That can potentially cause serious injury to passengers.

A representative for Nissan, Brian Brockman, said the company isn't aware of any accidents or injuries related to the recall. The latest recall of 226,326 cars is in addition to a previous recall and brings the total number of cars recalled by Nissan to 664,628.

The latest Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. recall is expected to begin Aug. 11, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Dealers will replace any faulty inflators that are identified, free of charge. The recall addresses air bags that were originally installed in the cars, as well as replacement air bags that may have been installed.

The National High Traffic Safety Administration said owners of all affected vehicles will be notified. Owners may also contact Nissan Customer Service at 1-800-647-7261.

The affected models are: Infiniti FX35, 2003; Infiniti FX45, 2003; Infiniti I35, 2002-2003; Infiniti QX42, 2002-2003; Maxima, 2002-2003; Pathfinder, 2002-2003; and Sentra, 2002-2004.

Cellphone unlocking set to become legal again

NEW YORK (AP)—Congress passed a bill Friday that makes it legal to "unlock" cellphones so the devices can—at least in some instances—be used on other carriers.

The law, which President Obama said he looks forward to signing, undoes a move by the Librarian of Congress in 2012. That made it a copyright violation to unlock a phone without the carrier's permission.

The law passed Friday by the House of Representatives makes it legal to unlock phones for personal use, at least until the Librarian's next round of rulemaking, next year. The measure was passed earlier by the Senate.

Unlocking typically involves entering codes on the phone. In more difficult cases, the phone needs to be hooked up to a computer to have new software installed.

Carriers have, in some instances, sued people who made a business out of unlocking phones and reselling them, but individuals unlocking for personal use have never been pursued.

Carriers have become more lenient in their unlocking policies in recent years. Verizon, for instance, ships most of its phones unlocked. However, technical differences mean that it's often difficult to move a phone from one network to another, and if you can make the move, phone functions are impaired. The easiest move is between AT&T and T-Mobile US.

Nation

US evacuates embassy in Libya amid clashes

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States shuttered its embassy in Libya on Saturday and evacuated its diplomats to neighboring Tunisia under U.S. military escort as fighting intensified between rival militias. Secretary of State John Kerry said "free-wheeling militia violence" prompted the move.

American personnel at the Tripoli embassy, which had already been operating with limited staffing, left the capital around dawn and traveled by road to neighboring Tunisia, with U.S. fighter jets and other aircraft providing protection, the State Department said. The withdrawal underscored the Obama administration's concern about the heightened risk to American diplomats abroad, particularly in Libya where memories of the deadly 2012 attack on the U.S. mission in the eastern city of Benghazi are still vivid.

The evacuation was accompanied by a new State Department travel warning for Libya urging Americans not to go to the country and recommending that those already there leave immediately. "The Libyan government has not been able to adequately build its military and police forces and improve security," it said. "Many military-grade weapons remain in the hands of private individuals, including anti-aircraft weapons that may be used against civilian aviation."

Speaking Saturday in Paris where he was meeting with other diplomats on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Kerry said the U.S. remains committed to the diplomatic process in Libya despite the suspension of embassy activities there. State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said the evacuated employees will continue to work on Libyan issues in Tunis, elsewhere in North Africa and Washington.

"Securing our facilities and ensuring the safety of our personnel are top department priorities, and we did not make this decision lightly," Harf said. "Security has to come first. Regrettably, we had to take this step because the location of our embassy is in very close proximity to intense fighting and ongoing violence between armed Libyan factions."

The Pentagon said in statement that F-16 fighter jets and other U.S. aircraft provided security. "The mission was conducted without incident, and the entire operation lasted approximately five hours," the statement said.

The State Department said embassy operations will be suspended until a determination is made that the security situation has improved. Tripoli has been embroiled for weeks in inter-militia violence that has killed and wounded dozens on all sides. The fighting has been particularly intense at the city's airport.

"We are committed to supporting the Libyan people during this challenging time, and are currently exploring options for a permanent return to Tripoli as soon as the security situation on the ground improves," Harf said.

Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon, R-Calif., the House Armed Services Committee chairman, expressed gratitude for the work of the U.S. forces that helped in the evacuation.

The move marks the second time in a little more than three years that Washington has closed its embassy in Libya. In February 2011, the embassy suspended operations during the uprising that eventually toppled longtime leader Moammar Gadhafi. After the formation of a transitional government in July 2011, the embassy reopened in September. Gadhafi was killed in October 2011.

The Obama administration has been particularly sensitive about security of U.S. government employees in Libya since the Sept. 11, 2012, attack on the U.S. mission in the country's second largest city of Benghazi. The attack killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans. The administration is still fending off criticism from Republicans and others that it did not take the needed steps to enhance security in Benghazi or evacuate the mission due to rising violence in that city in the months prior to the attack.

The Benghazi mission was abandoned after that attack and never reopened. The embassy In Tripoli has been operating with reduced staff since but has remained open even as the violence intensified.

ACROSS THE NATION

American doctor in Africa tests positive for Ebola

BOONE, N.C. (AP)—An American doctor working with Ebola patients in Liberia has tested positive for the deadly virus, an aid organization said Saturday. North Carolina-based Samaritan's Purse issued a news release saying that Dr. Kent Brantly tested positive for the disease and was being treated at a hospital in Monrovia, Liberia. Brantly is the medical director for the aid organization's case management center in the city. Brantly, 33, has been working with Samaritan's Purse in Liberia since October 2013 as part of the charity's post-residency program for doctors, said the group's spokeswoman Melissa Strickland. The organization's website says he had worked as a family practice physician in Fort Worth, Texas.

Cops: 'Spider-Man' slugged officer in Times Square

NEW YORK (AP)—A man dressed as Spider-Man was arrested on charges he slugged a police officer who told him to stop harassing tourists in Times Square. Junior Bishop, 25, of Brooklyn, was charged with assaulting an officer, resisting arrest and criminal mischief. The New York Police Department said the officer assaulted Saturday—an 18-month veteran and one of about 50 officers patrolling the bustling tourist area—stepped in after Bishop demanded at least $5 from a woman he posed for a picture with, instead of the $1 tip she offered. Police said a costumed Bishop "put out his hand and told the woman 5s, 10s or 20s only." Police said the officer told him he could only accept tips—not require payment. Bishop yelled and cursed at the officer, police said, and told him: "Mind your own [expletive] business."

Widow: Man who died in NYPD custody wasn't violent

NEW YORK (AP)—The widow of a New York City man who died this month in a videotaped confrontation with New York City police demanded justice on Saturday, saying the victim wasn't asking for trouble. Eric Garner "was not a violent man—not in any way, shape or form," said his widow, Esaw Garner, in what were described as her first public remarks about the death. "He was a quiet man, but he's making a lot of noise now." She described getting a text from her 43-year-old husband a half hour before he died July 17 that read: "I'm good." The widow and other members of Garner's family spoke at the Harlem headquarters of the Rev. Al Sharpton.

Police ID 3 kids killed in Philly carjacking crash

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Two carjackers who fled after ramming a stolen SUV into a family selling fruit for their church, killing three young siblings, were still on the run Saturday as the reward for their capture topped $100,000. The children's 34-year-old mother, Keisha Williams, remained in critical condition at Temple University Hospital. Her slain children were identified as 15-year-old Keiearra Williams, 10-year-old Thomas Reed and 7-year-old Terrence Moore. The two suspects fled on foot after crashing the stolen car Friday morning at a North Philadelphia intersection. They had first carjacked a real estate agent at gunpoint and later forced her into the back seat of her SUV, authorities said.

US faces intel hurdles in downing of Malaysian airliner

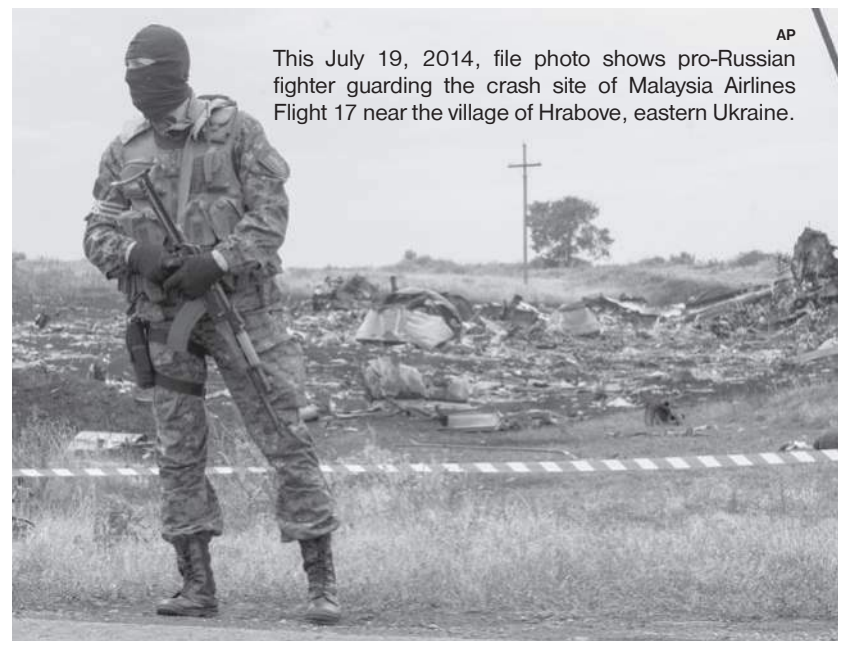
ASPEN, Colo. (AP)—A series of unanswered questions about the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 shows the limits of U.S. intelligence gathering even when it is intensely focused, as it has been in Ukraine since Russia seized Crimea in March.

Citing satellite imagery, intercepted conversations and social media postings, U.S. intelligence officials have been able to present what they call a solid circumstantial case that the plane was brought down by a Russian-made SA-11 surface-to-air missile fired by Russian-backed separatists in Eastern Ukraine.

But they have not offered proof of what they say is their strong belief that the separatists obtained the sophisticated missile system from the Russian government. And they say they have not determined what, if any, involvement Russian operatives may have had in directing or encouraging the attack, which they believe was a mistaken attempt to hit a Ukrainian military aircraft.

Moscow angrily denies any involvement in the attack; on Saturday the Russian Foreign Ministry accused the U.S. of waging "an unrelenting campaign of slander against Russia, ever more relying on open lies."

U.S. officials said they still don't know who fired the missile or whether Russian military officers were present when it happened. Determining that will take time, they said, if it's possible at all. As one put it, "this isn't '24,'" referring to the TV series that often exaggerates the speed and capabilities of the American spying machine.



AP

This July 19, 2014, file photo shows pro-Russian fighter guarding the crash site of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 near the village of Hrabove, eastern Ukraine.

On Friday, a U.S. intelligence official noted that intelligence agencies had been "heavily involved" in tracking the flow of weapons from Russian to Ukrainian separatists, and that "available intelligence points to Russia as the source of the SA-11 that downed" the jetliner. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive intelligence.

Intelligence rarely meets the "beyond a reasonable doubt" standard required to convict in a U.S. court, said Michael Hayden, a former director of the CIA and the National Security Agency.

"We know what happened," he said in an interview while attending the Aspen Security Forum. "Russia is responsible for the shootdown of the jet, regardless of a few of the finer details we have yet to determine."

The Malaysian airline investigation illustrates the challenges facing the $80 billion-a-year U.S. intelligence apparatus, which is spread thin as it grapples with an increasingly unpredictable world.

In the weeks after Russian troops took over the Ukrainian region of Crimea in March, U.S. intelligence agencies ramped up collection in the area, adding satellite and eavesdropping capability, said current and former U.S. officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss classified information.

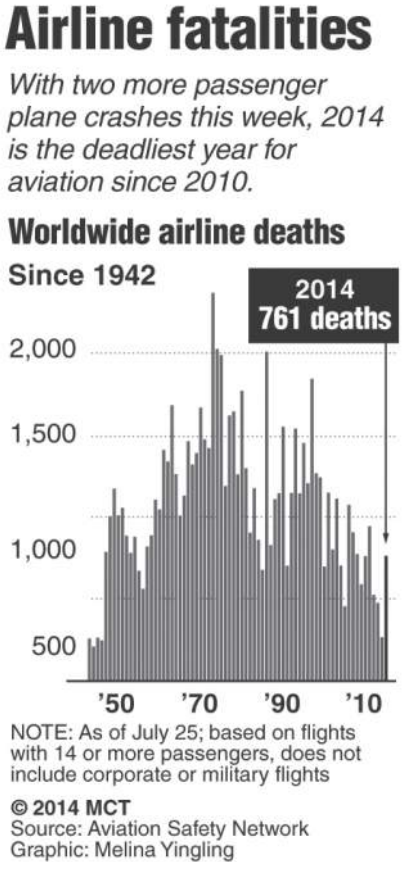
But spy satellites orbit the Earth and therefore don't offer persistent, hovering surveillance the way drones do. The U.S. does not appear to have captured an image of the missile being fired, officials say, although sensors detected the launch and analysts were able to determine the trajectory.

Had an imagery sensor on a low orbiting satellite captured the launch, it could have produced intelligence-rich photos of plumes of smoke and the launch vehicle, said David Deptula, a retired Air Force general and expert on intelligence systems. A company called Skybox Imaging has been able to shoot short bursts of full motion video from its satellites, so presumably the military also has that capability.

But weapons can be hidden from satellites. Although U.S. analysts said they knew that tanks and other heavy weaponry were flowing from Russia to the separatists, officials said they were unaware that the separatists possessed working SA-11 missiles, which can hit aircraft flying at high altitudes, until after the passenger jet was shot down.

Credible human sources are the holy grail of intelligence gathering, but the CIA, which has a medium-sized station in Kiev, was not in a position to recruit informants quickly among the separatists in what is essentially a war zone, officials said.

What the CIA did instead was to step up its cooperation with Ukrainian intelligence, despite concerns that the Ukrainian service is penetrated by the Russians. Key portions of the intelligence cited by U.S. officials as showing that separatists were responsible for bringing down the plane were provided by the Ukrainians, including intercepts of conversations that were verified by U.S. analysts.



Asia

Taiwan plane survivor crawls out, phones dad

XIXI, Taiwan (AP)—The 10 survivors of Taiwan's worst air disaster in more than a decade include a 34-year-old woman who called her father after scrambling from the wreckage and seeking help at a nearby home.

Hung Yu-ting escaped through a hole in the fuselage that opened up after the plane plowed into homes Wednesday while attempting to land on the outlying resort island of Penghu, killing 48 people. She used the phone at the nearby house to call her father.

"She called me on the phone to say the plane had crashed and exploded but that she had already crawled out and I should come right away to get her," said Hung's father, Hung Chang-ming, who lives just a few hundred meters (yards) from the crash site.

Hung rushed to the scene, but his daughter had already been taken away by rescuers.

"When I was halfway there the fire was still really big, but it was smaller when I arrived on the scene," Hung told reporters. "There were two other injured outside and the first ambulance had already taken away three, including my daughter."

Hung Chang-ming joined rescuers and other residents in putting out the fire and rescuing other survivors before going to the hospital to check on his daughter.

Hung Yu-ting was recovering Friday from burns to her arms, legs and back suffered during her escape. The condition of the other survivors wasn't immediately known.

Other relatives weren't so lucky, some recalling the last phone conversations with their loved ones.

Shu Chi-tse said he had spoken to his son, Shu Chong-tai, just before the flight left the southern city of Kaohsiung on Taiwan's main island for the short ride west across the Taiwan Strait.

"He is a good boy. He cares for me and his mom. He loves his grandma a lot," Shu said.

Among the dead were all four members of the flight crew, a family of six and a family of four. They included several children, among them 9-year-old Ho Po-yu, who was returning home to Penghu with his mother after attending a summer camp for young choral singers.

Stormy weather and low visibility are thought to have been factors in the crash of the twin-propeller ATR-72 operated by TransAsia Airways.

The investigation is expected to focus on a four-minute gap between the pilot's request for a second approach and the plane's crashing into village homes at 7:10 p.m., during which visibility dropped by half.

One of the questions is why the pilots decided to proceed with the flight despite rough weather on the heels of a typhoon that had forced the cancellation of about 200 flights earlier in the day. However, aviation authorities said conditions were safe for flying and two other planes had landed at Penghu prior to the crash.

The mother of one of the victims screamed at TransAsia Chairman Vincent Lin when he arrived to pay respects at the funeral hall Friday.

Lin kneeled down, bowed to the woman and apologized.

"Give me back my son, he is only 27 years old," the woman cried. "He is still young, but now he is lying there at the morgue. I want my son back."

"This is an unpredictable tragedy. The priority for us is to assist victims' relatives," Lin later told reporters as Buddhist monks conducted rituals for the dead.

AP

Emergency workers watch an engine lifted from the TransAsia Airways Flight GE222 crash site on the outlying Taiwan island of Penghu, Friday, July 25, 2014.

Malaysian prime minister to travel to Netherlands

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak will travel to the Netherlands on Wednesday to discuss the downed Malaysia Airlines jet with his Dutch counterpart.

Najib said in a statement Saturday that he and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte will discuss securing full access to the crash site and whether Malaysian pathologists can be of assistance in "expediting the process of identifying the human remains."

There were 193 Dutch and 43 Malaysians on Flight 17 when it was shot down over eastern Ukraine on July 17 en route from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, killing all 298 people on board. The plane crashed in territory controlled by pro-Russia rebels, who have been blamed by many in the international community for shooting it down.

Najib reached an agreement with rebel leader Alexander Borodai on Monday to secure the handing over of the plane's black boxes and the remains of the victims, as well as to ensure safe access to the crash site.

"The first two conditions have been met," Najib said. "My priority now is to ensure the third part of the deal is honored, and that international investigators are given full and secure access to the site. This will require the cooperation of those in control of the crash site and the Ukrainian armed forces."

A team of three Malaysian investigators has visited the crash site three times so far, according to the statement.

Joined by three Dutch investigators and one from the International Civil Aviation Organization, they managed to observe some of the crash site, and take notes and photographs. "However, given its large size, they have been unable to visit the entire crash site," the statement said.

North Korea fires short-range missile into sea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea fired a short-range ballistic missile into waters off its east coast on Saturday, a South Korean defense official said, adding to its unusually high number of weapons tests this year. The launch came on the eve of the 61st anniversary of the signing of an armistice that ended the Korean War.

The missile, fired from North Korea's southwest Hwanghae province on Saturday evening, flew about 500 kilometers (310 miles) across the country before landing in the sea, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of department rules. He gave no further details.

North Korea routinely test-fires missiles, artillery and rockets, but the number of weapons tests it has conducted this year is much higher than previous years. Outside analysts say this indicates that North Korea's young leader, Kim Jong Un, is handling things differently than his late father, Kim Jong Il, who sparingly used longer-range missile and nuclear tests as negotiating cards with the outside world to win concessions. Kim Jong Un inherited power upon his father's death in December 2011.

Analysts also say Kim Jong Un won't order troops to stop testing weapons unless rival South Korea and the U.S. make a major concession such as downsizing their regular joint military drills or conducting them in a low-key manner. Pyongyang calls the drills by Seoul and Washington a rehearsal for invasion, though the allies say they have no intention of attacking North Korea. Annual summertime exercises by South Korean and U.S. troops are slated for next month.

ASIAN BRIEFS

15 killed in Afghan attacks as vote count stops

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Attacks across Afghanistan, including hundreds of Taliban fighters swarming police checkpoints across the south, killed at least 15 people Saturday, officials said, as a recount in the country's presidential election halted before a major holiday. The Taliban attacks focused on Kandahar province, where Taliban fighters killed six police officers—including a district police chief—in assaults on some 15 checkpoints, said Dawa Khan Menapal, a spokesman for the provincial governor. Menapal said reinforcements later arrived to combat the Taliban fighters and the combat continued into Saturday night. In Helmand province, a bomb hidden inside a motorcycle killed four civilians and wounded four others in Marjah district.

UN Myanmar envoy worried over displaced Muslims

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—The new U.N. human rights envoy for Myanmar expressed serious concern about the conditions in camps for more than 100,000 mostly minority Muslims displaced by violence led by Buddhist extremists, and warned that the country's human rights situation may be deteriorating. Yanghee Lee spoke Saturday at the end of a 10-day fact-finding mission to Myanmar, her first in the capacity of U.N. rapporteur. She said Myanmar should be applauded for having come a long way since installing an elected government in 2011 after almost five decades of repressive military rule. "Yet, there are worrying signs of possible backtracking, which if unchecked could undermine Myanmar's efforts to become a responsible member of the international community that respects and protects human rights," she said, after talks with political and social leaders and trips to troubled areas of the country.

Philippine soldiers clash with militants; 5 dead

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine troops attacked a Muslim militant hideout on southern Basilan island, triggering a clash that killed three Abu Sayyaf members believed to have been involved in the 2011 kidnapping of an American woman and her teenage son, a military report said Friday. Two government militiamen were killed and two others were wounded. The report said the operation Thursday in Ungkaya Pukan township targeted Abu Sayyaf sub-leader Sulaiman Ajanti, who was allegedly behind atrocities in Basilan and Zamboanga City including the kidnapping of Gerfa Yeatts Lunsmann and her then 14-year-old son. The Philippine-born woman adopted as a child by an American couple was released after 2 ½ months in captivity. Her son escaped after five months. Ajanti and two of his followers were killed in the clash and five militants were wounded, the report said.

World

Israel says it's extending Gaza truce for 24 hours

BEIT HANOUN, Gaza Strip (AP)—Hamas resumed rocket fire Saturday on Israel after rejecting Israel's offer to extend a humanitarian cease-fire, the latest setback in international efforts to negotiate an end to the Gaza war.

Despite the Hamas rejection, Israel's Cabinet decided to extend a truce for 24 hours, until midnight (2100 GMT) Sunday. However, it warned that its military would respond to any fire from Gaza and would continue to demolish Hamas military tunnels during this period.

The temporary lull on Saturday saw Palestinians return to neighborhoods reduced to rubble and allowed medics to collect close to 150 bodies, Palestinian health official Ashraf al-Kidra said.

With the retrieval of the corpses, the number of Palestinians killed reached 1,047 in 19 days of fighting, while more than 6,000 were wounded, he said.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and European foreign ministers, meeting in Paris, had hoped to transform the cease-fire into a more sustainable truce. That effort was thrown into doubt with the Hamas' rejection of the extension.

Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said any truce must include a withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza, and that tens of thousands of displaced people must be allowed to return to their homes. Israel's current terms are "not acceptable," he said in a text message to journalists.

In the northern Gaza town of Beit Hanoun, scores of homes had been pulverized, wreckage blocked roads and power cables dangled in the streets. Hardest hit were areas close to the border with Israel, areas from where Gaza militants typically fire rockets.

Manal Kefarneh, 30, wept as she inspected her damaged home.

On an unfinished top floor, she and her husband had been raising chickens. The couple collected the dead and replenished water for the living in hopes they will survive the war.

"What did we do to deserve this?" she asked. "All of the Arab leaders watch what's going on here like it's a Bollywood film."

Israeli strikes have destroyed hundreds of homes, including close to 500 in targeted hits, and forced tens of thousands of people to flee, according to Palestinian rights groups.

Across Gaza, 147 bodies were pulled from the rubble Saturday, officials said. In southern Gaza, a tank shell killed 20 members of an extended family who sought refuge inside a building, al-Kidra said.

Nigeria death shows Ebola can spread by air travel

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)—Nigerian health authorities raced to stop the spread of Ebola on Saturday after a man sick with one of the world's deadliest diseases brought it by plane to Lagos, Africa's largest city with 21 million people.

The fact that the traveler from Liberia could board an international flight also raised new fears that other passengers could take the disease beyond Africa due to weak inspection of passengers and the fact Ebola's symptoms are similar to other diseases.

Officials in the country of Togo, where the sick man's flight had a stopover, also went on high alert after learning that Ebola could possibly have spread to a fifth country.

Screening people as they enter the country may help slow the spread of the disease, but it is no guarantee Ebola won't travel by airplane, according to Dr. Lance Plyler, who heads Ebola medical efforts in Liberia for aid organization Samaritan's Purse.

"Unfortunately the initial signs of Ebola imitate other diseases, like malaria or typhoid," he said.

The aid organization on Saturday said a U.S. doctor working with Ebola patients in Liberia had tested positive for the deadly virus. A Samaritan's Purse news release said Dr. Kent Brantly was being treated at a hospital in Monrovia, the capital.

Ebola already had caused some 672 deaths across a wide swath of West Africa before the Nigeria case was announced. It is the deadliest outbreak on record for Ebola, and now it threatens Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation. An outbreak in Lagos, Africa's megacity where many live in cramped conditions, could be a major diisaster.

"Lagos is completely different from other cities because we're talking about millions of people," said Plan International's Disaster Response and Preparedness Head, Dr. Unni Krishnan.

UN finds second black box of Air Algerie jet

This photo provided Friday July 25, 2014 by the French army shows soldiers at the site of the plane crash in Mali. AP

PARIS (AP)—French President Francois Hollande said Saturday he wants the remains of all passengers on the Air Algerie plane that fell from the sky and disintegrated to be brought to France and the site of this week's catastrophe marked with a memorial to the 118 who died.

U.N. peacekeepers in Mali found the second black box of the Air Algerie plane at the remote disaster site in the north, and the French president said the data and voice recorders must be analyzed as quickly as possible to determine the cause of the crash early Thursday.

Nearly half of the victims, 54, were French and Hollande has taken a leading role in the aftermath, stressing the need to determine the cause of the crash in a storm, without ruling out any possibilities. French authorities have said extreme bad weather was the probable cause but aren't ruling out anything, even terrorism. The plane went down in a restive area of Mali, where extremists roam.

"I don't want to rule out any hypothesis," Hollande said again Saturday.

The Air Algerie jet was flying from Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, to Algiers, Algeria when it went down in the desolate part of Mali near the border with Burkina Faso. The pilot had advised he must change routes due to a storm and then contact with the Niger control tower was lost.

Hollande met Saturday with families of victims, and ordered all French flags at half-staff for three days starting Monday. In remarks later, he said families will eventually be able to visit the disaster site "to have a link with this land where their loved ones disappeared."

The Burkina Faso government flew three family members of those killed to the site in Mali where debris from the plane and remains of passengers are scattered, said spokesman Victorien Sawadogo.

A government helicopter on Saturday morning transported the family members—from France, Lebanon and Burkina Faso—so they could view the results of the air disaster, he said. A psychologist accompanied them and a second flight to the site was planned later Saturday, he said.

Burkina Faso President Blaise Compaore was to meet with other family members Saturday afternoon, said the spokesman.

The "most painful" subject is identifying the bodies, Hollande said in a reference to the state of the disaster site. Video shows unrecognizable debris and no sign of bodies.

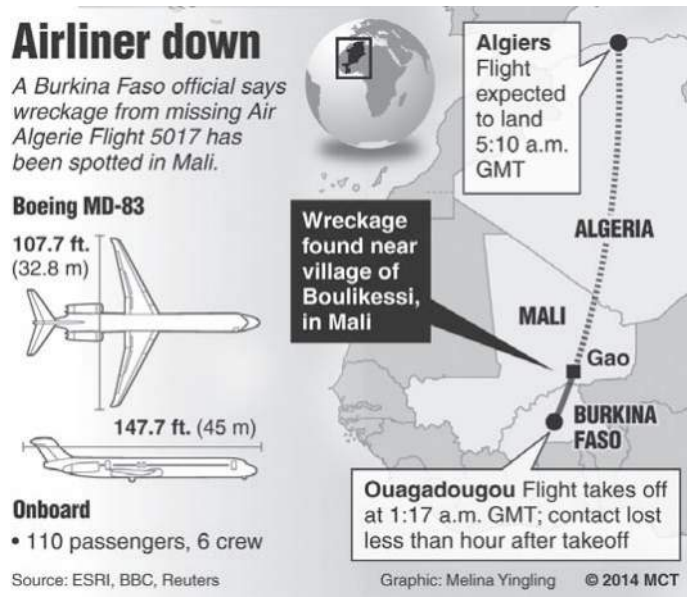
Once bodies have been grouped and identified, Hollande said he decided "all bodies will be brought to France. I mean all bodies of all passengers of this flight."

He did not clarify whether this plan has been approved by families from Canada to Lebanon who lost loved ones. Nor did he clarify what would then be done with the remains.

The MD-83 plane was owned by the Spanish company Swiftair and leased to Air Algerie.

Spanish and Algerian officials flew to Burkina Faso Saturday to express their condolences.

``We send a message of condolences, sympathy, solidarity and availability to the people of Burkina Faso," Amar Ghoule, the Algerian transport minister and special envoy of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, told journalists after meeting with Compaore.


Airliner down
A Burkina Faso official says wreckage from missing Air Algerie Flight 5017 has been spotted in Mali.
Boeing MD-83
107.7 ft. (32.8 m)
147.7 ft. (45 m)
Onboard
• 110 passengers, 6 crew
Source: ESRI, BBC, Reuters
Algiers Flight expected to land 5:10 a.m. GMT
Wreckage found near village of Boulikessi, in Mali
ALGERIA
MALI
Gao
BURKINA FASO
Ouagadougou Flight takes off at 1:17 a.m. GMT; contact lost less than hour after takeoff
Graphic: Melina Yingling © 2014 MCT

Ukraine military launches offensive to take Donetsk

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainian officials said their forces advanced to the outskirts of a key town north of Donetsk on Saturday as they try to retake the stronghold held for months by pro-Russia rebels.

The move comes as Ukrainian forces appear to have gained some momentum recently by retaking control of territory from the rebels. But Russia also appears to becoming more involved in the fighting, with the U.S. and Ukraine accusing Moscow of moving heavily artillery across the border to the rebels.

Ukrainian national security spokesman Andriy Lysenko said Ukrainian forces were outside Horlikva, just north of the regional center of Donetsk.

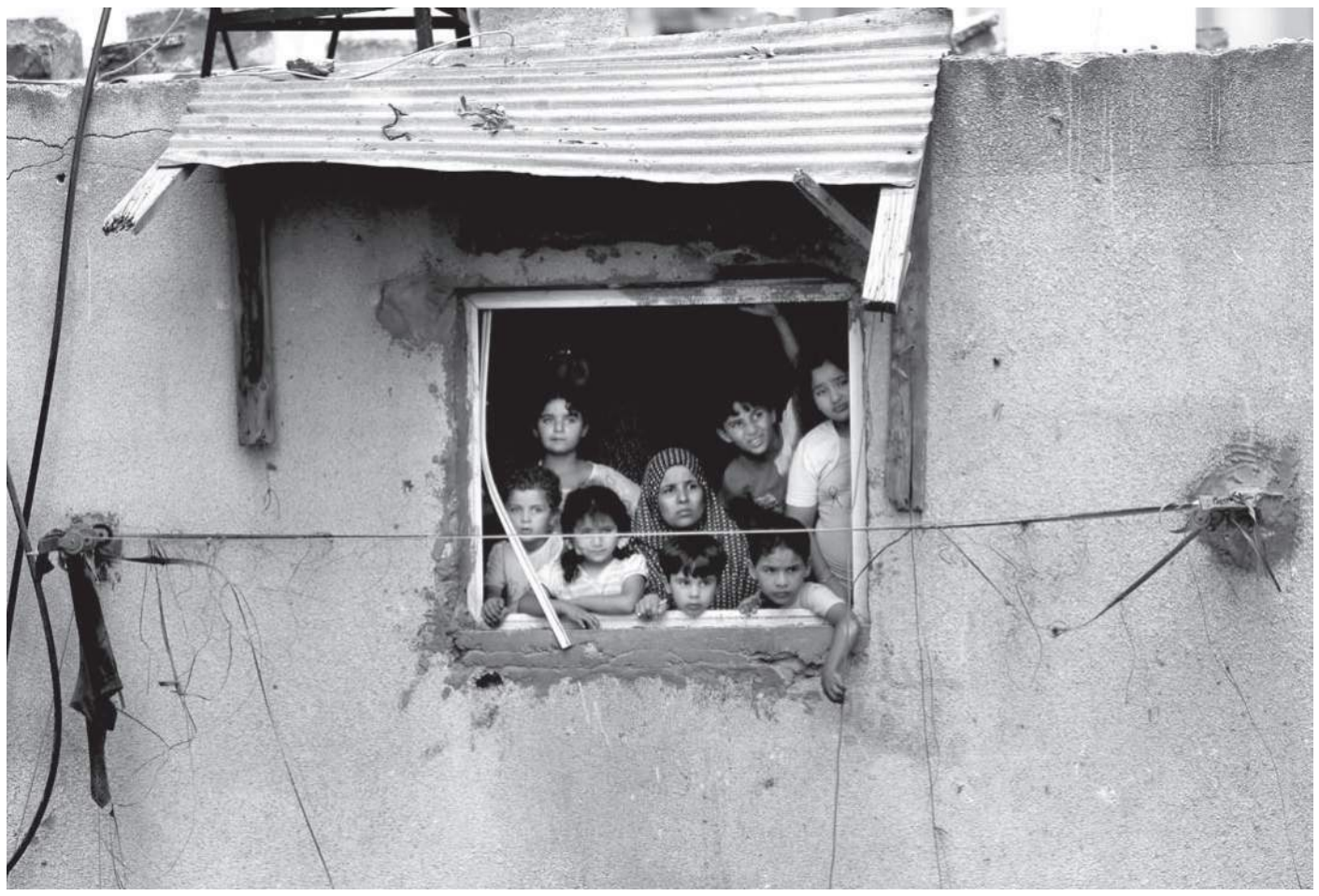
Once they can take Horlivka, "the direct route is open for the forces of the anti-terrorist operation to the capital of the Donbass region—the city of Donetsk," Lysenko said. "The approaches to Donetsk are being blocked so that the terrorists do not get the chance to receive ammunition, reinforcements or equipment."

Donetsk, a city of about 1 million people, is a major center of the separatist uprising that has battled Ukrainian government forces for five months.

An Associated Press reporter found the highway north of Donetsk blocked by rebels and heard the sound of artillery to the north. Explosions were heard in the direction of the town's airport, on the northwest edge of the city, an area frequently contested by Ukrainian forces and rebels. Black smoke rose from the direction of Yakovlikva, a northern suburb of Donetsk.

About 35 miles (60 kilometers) to the east, the site where Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was shot down was still eerily empty except for the parents of one of the 298 people killed in the July 17 disaster. A full-fledged investigation still hasn't started because of the security risks posed by the nearby fighting.

Focus



AP

In this Monday, July 21, 2014, file photo, a Palestinian family watches rescuers searching for bodies and survivors under the rubble of homes that were destroyed by an Israeli missile strike, in Gaza City.

GAZA BLOCKADE

key to any Israel-Hamas truce deal

By KARIN LAUB
Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Ibrahim Zain was driven from his home by Israeli tank fire this week, but says he'd rather endure more Israel-Hamas fighting than accept an unconditional cease-fire he fears will leave in place the blockade of the Gaza Strip.

Like Zain, many Gaza residents say the closure, imposed by Israel and Egypt after Hamas seized Gaza in 2007, is like a slow death: It prevents them from traveling, from importing cement to build homes and increasingly from earning enough to feed their families.

"We want a good life or no life," said the unemployed 44-year-old father of nine whose small scrap metal business fell victim to the blockade last year.

Disagreement over whether and how to lift the Gaza closure is a key stumbling block to ending more than two weeks of fighting between the Islamic militant Hamas and Israel.

And in a way, it is emerging as the Gazan equivalent of what is single-mindedly driving the Israelis—the rocket fire from Gaza, which they feel must stop at almost any cost. For the Gazans, it is the blockade that must stop, and the fact that Hamas is demanding this appears to have gained its tactics genuine support.

Egypt wants an immediate end to hostilities, followed by undefined talks about easing access to Gaza. Israel accepted, but Hamas wants international guarantees that Gaza's borders will open before it stops fighting. Hamas distrusts Israel and Egypt, whose rulers tightened the Gaza blockade even more over the past year, pushing Hamas into a severe financial crisis.

U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon, who is mediating, took a middle ground Tuesday. He said fighting must stop now, but that underlying problems setting off repeated violence between Israel and Gaza must be addressed. Ban did not say whether Gaza should be opened, but that "no closure, no barrier, can separate Israelis and Palestinians from a fundamental truth: You share a common future."

Gaza residents say that without open borders, their lives will become increasingly desperate.

"Open the blockade and then we halt fire," said Gaza City street cleaner Said Abu Seif, 40, as he cleared away debris Tuesday morning from a mosque and a gas station damaged hours earlier in an Israeli airstrike. If the closure continues, he said, "I don't see a future for my children."

The last two weeks of fighting, including Israeli airstrikes and tank shelling, have led to widespread misery for Gaza's civilians. More than 620 Palestinians have been killed, more than 3,700 wounded and hundreds of houses damaged or destroyed. More than 100,000 people have sought shelter in U.N. schools where dozens are squeezed into each classroom.

Despite the devastation, there has been no visible criticism of Hamas among Gazans for provoking such attacks by firing rockets at Israel.

A resident of Shijaiyah, a Gaza City neighborhood devastated by heavy fighting over the weekend, said some of his neighbors privately blame Hamas for the destruction but would never speak in public for fear of Hamas retribution. The resident spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of repercussions.

Others, like Abu Seif, the street cleaner, said even though they are not Hamas supporters, they back the group's goal to open Gaza's borders, by force if necessary.

Polls have suggested that only about one-third of Gaza's 1.7 million people are supporters of Hamas, while others either back its rival, the Fatah movement of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, or are not affiliated.

In times of confrontation with Israel, the popularity of Hamas tends to increase, while that of Abbas, who espouses nonviolence and negotiations with Israel, tends to drop.

Israel has said it is attacking Hamas targets to halt rocket fire from Gaza on Israel. It has accused the militants of using civilians as human shields by firing rockets from densely populated areas and storing weapons inside civilian sites.

"The people of Gaza suffer because of the Hamas regime, a regime that sacrifices the people of Gaza for its very extreme agenda," said Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev. Hamas, a branch of the region-wide Muslim Brotherhood, wants to establish an Islamic state in historic Palestine, including what is now Israel, and has killed hundreds of Israelis since the 1980s.

Hamas won Palestinian parliament elections in 2006, defeating Fatah by a wide margin. A year later, after power-sharing efforts failed, Hamas forces seized Gaza, driving out troops loyal to Abbas, who remained in control of the other Palestinian territory, the West Bank. In response to the takeover, Israel and Egypt sealed Gaza's borders, in hopes the restrictions would make it difficult for Hamas to govern and eventually topple the group.

Instead, Hamas established a firm grip on Gaza, mainly by building hundreds of smuggling tunnels under the Gaza-Egypt border and earning tens of millions of dollars a year in customs and taxes on fuel, cigarettes and consumer goods transported into Gaza. At the same time, it sidelined political rivals and silenced dissent.

The international community has set out conditions for Hamas to be accepted, chiefly acquiescence to the Palestinians' past agreements with Israel, but this runs counter to the group's central ethos. If Hamas changed its stripes this way it would probably also end the blockade, but the issue almost never comes up now amid the din and anger of war.

Hamas' situation deteriorated sharply after the Egyptian military toppled a Muslim Brotherhood-run government in Egypt last year. Egypt's new rulers blamed the group for increased militant activity in the Sinai Peninsula that borders Gaza and shut down the smuggling tunnels, depriving Gaza of a main lifeline.

A year later, Hamas is mired in its worst-ever financial crisis, unable to pay salaries for 40,000 civil servants and security forces.

Gaza's official unemployment is close to 50 percent, though Gaza economist Omar Shaban believes the real figure is over 60 percent, if counting underemployment.

Zain, the Gaza man driven from his home by the fighting, said he used to make a living selling scrap metal for $150 a ton to Egypt, exporting through the tunnels. Once Egypt closed the tunnels, he was out of business, no longer able to provide for his nine children, he said.

Much of the construction sector and local manufacturing have been wiped out because Israel bars virtually all exports from Gaza and prevents imports of cement and steel for fear Hamas will divert them for building tunnels. Such tunnels are now a central target for Israeli forces, and in recent days Hamas militants have repeatedly tried to sneak into Israel through tunnels to carry out attacks.

The Rafah passenger crossing between Gaza and Egypt is closed more days than it is open, and only certain groups of people can travel, including medical patients and Gaza residents with foreign passports. Even for those, there's a waiting list of 15,000 people, according to Hamas border authorities.

Shaban said Gazans must be allowed to trade and travel. Otherwise, "Gaza will explode ... and these people will become more radical because they have nothing to lose," he said. "We should not allow Gaza to go there."

However, Egypt and Israel are unlikely to lift the closure because enabling Gaza to thrive will keep Hamas rooted there.

One plan would have forces loyal to Abbas stationed on the Gaza side of Rafah, but it's not clear if Hamas would be willing to give up control to such an extent. A power-sharing deal between Abbas and Hamas earlier this year quickly ran aground over unresolved disputes.

Qatar and Turkey have invested in Gaza, starting to build hospitals, roads and a housing complex for tens of millions of dollars, but projects have stalled over access problems.

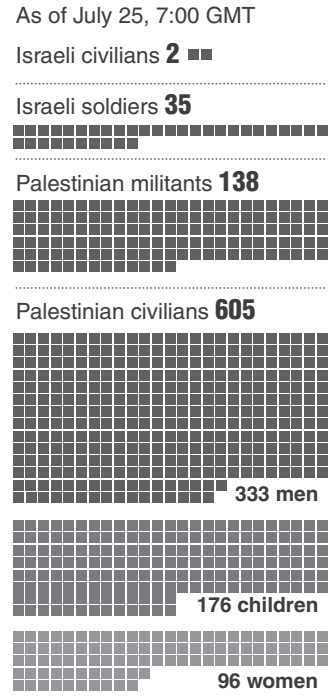
In this quagmire, some in Gaza say they'd rather see the fighting continue than accept an unconditional cease-fire that would likely perpetuate the closure. Mohammed Hassouneh, a Gaza City barber, said he barely has clients because the closure left most of them broke.

"The war can continue another month or two, as far as I'm concerned," he said. "As long as our demands are met."

Gaza conflict

The death toll continues to mount on both sides of the Gaza conflict.

Death totals
As of July 25, 7:00 GMT



Source: Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
Graphic: Melina Yingling © 2014 MCT

Health & Fitness

Giving Auguste a chance to hear

By AMINA KHAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Auguste is 3 years old, a charmer with big blue eyes, long lashes and a playful smile. He's wearing a T-shirt that says "Make some noise" and fiddling with his Etch A Sketch in a hospital exam room.

But when a doctor reaches toward his temple, he quickly releases the knobs and tilts his head. He knows what they're looking for. Behind each ear, under the skin, are cochlear implants—surgically implanted devices meant to help process sound.

But they didn't help Auguste.

He was born without an auditory nerve, the wire that ferries sound from the ear to the brain. He points out planes in the sky but can't hear their engines roar. He's never heard the voices of his 4-year-old sister or 1-year-old brother. He doesn't know the sound of his own name.

Now, a team of Los Angeles doctors and researchers believes it can help Auguste hear. But the device the team is testing will require surgeons to go much deeper into Auguste's skull, all the way to the brain.

Sophie Gareau, Auguste's mom, often tears up when she thinks about what's ahead.

"He's so perfect, you know?" she says. Her voice breaks. "I don't want anything to happen to him. But I am so convinced that it's going to work."

■■■

Sophie realized something was off when Auguste was 6 months old: Her baby wasn't babbling. Doctors in Montreal said he was fine. She insisted otherwise, but it was nearly a year later before audiologists played sounds as loud as an airplane engine in the toddler's ear and confirmed what his French-Canadian parents had suspected: Auguste was profoundly deaf.

"I think it takes a moment to sink in and then you cry for a week," Sophie said.

Audiologists put him on track for the cochlear implant, which places electrodes in the snail-shaped cochlea, part of the inner ear, to stimulate the auditory nerve. It's a common procedure for deaf children: About 38,000 children in the U.S. have received them.

But the surgery didn't work. Auguste had a cochlea, doctors discovered, but no auditory nerve to deliver sound to the brainstem.

Sophie and her husband, Christophe Majkowski, were crushed, but they focused on the positive. "He's perfectly healthy, and he's smart and he's quick," said Sophie, who shares her son's big blue eyes and constantly chats with him in sign language.

She'd heard about something called an auditory brainstem implant, or ABI. The device uses an external processor on the ear to send sound to a surgically implanted electrode array. A doctor warned her against it.

"He had mentioned that only the Italians were doing it and they were 'cowboys,' which in French means 'crazy people,'" she said.

The Italian in question was Vittorio Colletti, who began putting the devices in healthy deaf patients in the late 1990s at the University of Verona. This was unheard of at the time: There had to be an urgent reason—such as removal of a dangerous tumor—to perform such a risky surgery.

Colletti was criticized. But he began reporting incredible results; some patients with the device could even conduct business on the phone, without lip-reading.

The medical community was skeptical. So Colletti invited Robert Shannon, who helped develop the modern brainstem implant while working as a medical researcher at the House Research Institute in Los Angeles, to see for himself.

Shannon spent hundreds of hours testing patients in Italy.

"I was astounded," said Shannon, who now works at USC. "It was even better than he said."

A team of researchers that included Shannon wanted to introduce the procedure to children in the U.S. But a risk-averse Food and Drug Administration denied the team's initial request, said USC audiologist Laurie Eisenberg, one of the lead scientists.

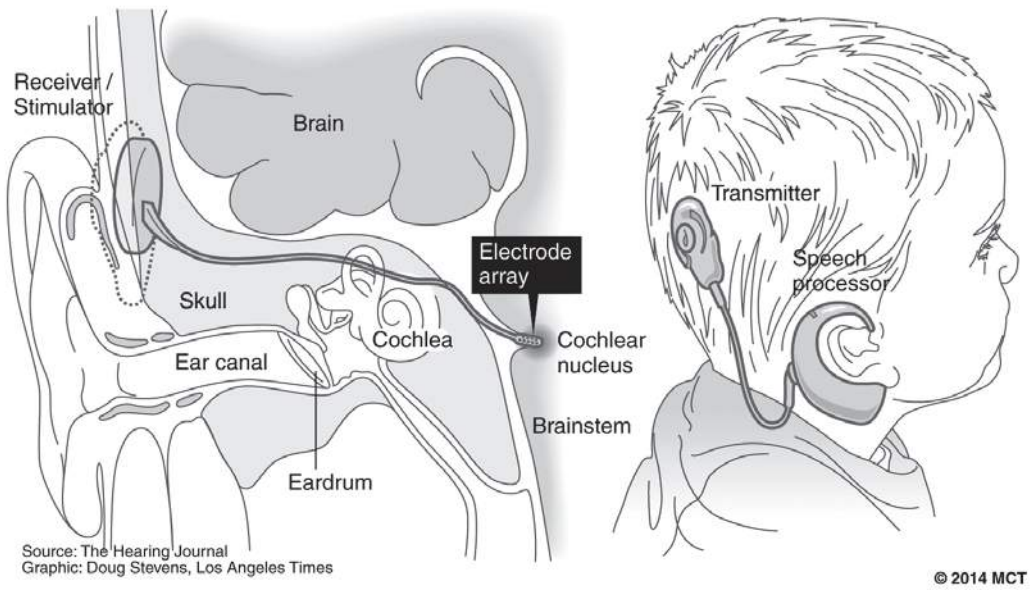
"After all," Eisenberg said, "it is brain surgery in children."

After some key changes in FDA personnel, the team received the go-ahead in 2012. In spite of several setbacks, the team pressed on, because the National Institutes of Health had agreed to pay for the team's clinical trial.

Auguste is its first patient.

A link to sound

The auditory brainstem implant, or ABI, is a surgically implanted device increasingly used to give children who were born deaf a chance to hear. The ABI helps patients whose auditory nerve, which ferries sound from the ear to the brain, is damaged or absent.



Source: The Hearing Journal
Graphic: Doug Stevens, Los Angeles Times

© 2014 MCT

■■■

Auguste lies unconscious in the operating room at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, a blue sheet covering his body. The only part of him visible is a small square where the three surgeons are operating—their window into Auguste's brain.

Pediatric neurosurgeon Mark Krieger stands over this tiny red window, gloved hands at work. Marc Schwartz, a neurosurgeon with the Los Angeles-based House Clinic, speaks in a voice muffled by the mask they all must wear. His colleague Eric Wilkinson, one of the lead scientists, trains a plastic-wrapped microscope on the exposed flesh.

The surgeons cut through skin, saw through bone and snip through the dura, the brain's protective covering. They drain cerebrospinal fluid so that the cerebellum relaxes, allowing them to move past the bulging tissue and reach the brainstem. Occasionally a spurt of blood runs across the opening, but the surgeons don't flinch.

Colletti, the "cowboy" who pioneered the procedure, is sitting nearby. He has flown in from Italy to see the clinical trial begin. He can't wield a knife; all he can do is offer advice as he watches Auguste's brain on a large screen.

Schwartz knows the path to the cochlear nucleus, the spot on the brainstem where the ABI will go. He's seen Colletti perform the procedure in Italy about half a dozen times. He follows the ninth cranial nerve to the boundary between the cerebellum and brainstem, then looks for a tiny nook called the lateral recess. That's where the cochlear nucleus should be.

But it isn't.

"There's nothing there. There's no hole there," Schwartz says. "No hole. Not even anything that looks like a hole. Remotely."

The chatter in the room has dropped to hollow silence, punctuated by the harsh beep of the monitors.

Schwartz retraces his steps, over and over. No luck. The surgeons debate what to do next. If they can't find the lateral recess, they can't put the device in.

Wilkinson urges him forward, but Schwartz is worried.

"I'm just afraid of hurting the kid," he says.

At last, Schwartz finds the entrance. Over several minutes, he carefully inserts the 8-millimeter-long electrode array into the right spot.

"Bravo," Colletti says. "Bravo, bravo!"

After the roughly six-hour operation, the doctors find Auguste's parents in a waiting room. The surgery went well, they say. Auguste will be awake soon.

Christophe and Sophie hug each other tightly. When the surgeons are gone, she lets out a whoop, edged with exhaustion.

■■■

There are a few scary days for Auguste's parents. Soon after the surgery, Sophie discovers blood seeping onto his pillow.

A week passes before Auguste can walk again. A few weeks later, he's playing in the sand at Venice Beach with his family, a new haircut outlining the pink crescent scar behind his ear.

Inside Auguste's head, his brain is healing and fibrous tissue is growing around the device. Outside, he's flailing at his older sister, Daria, as they both try to climb onto their dad's back. Christophe rears like a horse and they slip into the sand, giggling and out of breath.

■■■

Auguste sits at a toy-filled table at USC's Keck School of Medicine. After a month of recovery, it's time to find out whether the surgery worked.

Margaret Winter and Jamie Glater scrunch around the kid-sized table. They're known as "child whisperers"; because deaf children can't say exactly what they're hearing, the USC audiologists have to be able to read their reactions, such as a quick glance or a sudden stillness.

As Auguste plays with his trucks, Winter uses her computer to remotely activate individual electrodes on the device, each of which represents a different pitch range. If the device works, Auguste should hear these simple beeps.

Auguste is rolling a toy monster truck across the table. As the beep sounds, he freezes, mid-car crash. Something's happened.

Glater makes a crooked L with her fingers, the thumb pointed at her ear. "Listening! You're listening!" she says. Auguste searches their faces, then goes back to his toys.

Delighted, the audiologists go through several more electrodes, dialing up the electrical signal on each until they see a clear reaction. Then, it's time to try a human voice. They turn on the microphone.

"Bap-bap-bap-bap," Glater says. Every time she says the strong syllables, Auguste drops a token in a Connect Four grid, as he's been trained to do. The adults cheer.

Winter turns the signal up. Auguste winces—the way you do when a sound is too piercing—and brings his hand to his head, then runs into Sophie's open arms. He shakes his head so hard, the earpiece flies off.

That's perfectly normal, Winter tells the parents. It's a completely new experience—more of a sensation than a sound at first. Whatever he felt, it "penetrated his world," Winter says.

Personal Trainer

Learning to swim as an adult

Most children take naturally to water and can learn to swim without difficulty, but adults often have fears or self-doubts to overcome.

Some typical anxieties
• Putting one's face underwater
• Getting into water over one's head
• Swimming in dark or cloudy water
How swimming teachers ease worries
Relaxation exercises to begin class; some teachers also use visualization
Goggles or swim mask to make it easier to put face underwater
Warm pool water is easier than cold for a worried student to ease into
Ear plugs and nose clip to keep water from filling ears, nose
Gradual progress at student's pace
Fins or kick board let student swim more strongly from the start
© 2014 MCT
For more information, call your local Red Cross, YMCA/YWCA, public recreation department or other community organizations

Source: Transpersonal Swimming Institute (Berkeley, Calif.); Adult Aquaphobia Swim Centers (Glendale, Calif.)
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

Life & Style

Woody Allen back in spotlight, promoting new film

NEW YORK (AP)—Throughout his long career, Woody Allen has been fascinated by magic, a theme he's explored frequently onscreen: playing a magician in "Scoop," sending Owen Wilson on time travel in "Midnight in Paris," or pulling Jeff Daniels out of a movie screen in "The Purple Rose of Cairo."

And though one might think, with the wave of terrible publicity he went through earlier this year, that a bit of magician-like escape into a bygone era or a movie screen is just what he might prefer, Allen is doing anything but disappear.

He's not only making movies on the same famously ambitious, one-per-year schedule he's adhered to for almost half a century. He's also actively promoting his latest, the lighthearted period romp "Magic in the Moonlight," even as he's busy shooting his next movie in Providence, Rhode Island.

But anyone who expected Allen to speak further on the personal issues that arose last year—the revival of accusations by his adopted daughter, Dylan Farrow, that he abused her when she was 7—will be disappointed. The 78-year-old director has held true to his word that he would say nothing further, following a February letter to the New York Times in which he vigorously denied the allegations.

The question does remain whether Allen's personal issues might affect the public reception of his new film, which stars Colin Firth as a cynical stage magician and Emma Stone as the young spiritualist whose magical powers he seeks to debunk. "One thing doesn't have to do with the other," says Michael Barker, co-president of Sony Pictures Classics, which released the film on Friday.

Box office expert Paul Dergarabedian expects fans to agree.

"For fans, I think there's a total separation that occurs with Woody Allen," says Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak. "Coming in, you know there's this baggage ... but his filmmaking transcends all that. His audiences seem to keep lining up for his films."

So far, reviews for the new film have been mixed. In any case, Allen himself says he long ago stopped trying to figure out how his movies will be received.

"I have no idea," he said in a telephone interview, when asked about prospects for "Moonlight."

"I'm always disappointed in each movie when I'm finished," he explained, "because there's a big difference between the fantasy you have when you're home writing the thing, and you think, this is going to be so great ... and then you actually have to execute it, and Emma Stone can't possibly walk across the room as fast as you pictured, because no human can. ... And so I'm always disappointed, and I never have an idea which ones are going to resonate with an audience."

Dergarabedian notes that big-name actors "are still lining up to work with Allen." That would include Firth and Stone, both working with Allen for the first time.

"His work has had such a specific role to play in my whole relation with movies," Firth said, "that to suddenly be invited to join the narrative a bit is thrilling."

Stone is only 25—less than half Firth's age—but still has a connection to Allen's films. "My mom showed me 'Annie Hall,'" said the actress, who noted that her family dog is named Alvy, after Alvy Singer, Allen's role in that film.

"I was incredibly nervous," Stone said of the prospect of working with Allen. But clearly it worked out: She's now shooting his new movie, along with Joaquin Phoenix.

In "Moonlight," you could say Firth has the requisite Woody Allen protagonist role. And his character, Stanley, exudes the same cynicism about magic and spiritualism that Allen feels. "He's a magician who'd love to be proven wrong," said Allen. Especially because "he knows that life is a tough, brutal, grim, meaningless grind full of heartache and tragedy, accruing to nothing."

If that sounds sober, listen to Allen's own (abridged here) view of life:

"In the end," he said, "you realize that you're just a human being on the face of the earth, an insignificant agglomeration of cells and neurons, and eventually that expires, and eventually everything expires. It's terrifying."

Allen says the best antidote is distraction, a gift he's been trying to give his audiences for 50 years. But don't expect a happy answer to the question of whether experience makes him a better director.

"I wish that were true," he said, ruefully. "In an art form, you start from scratch all the time. You gain a little technique over the years. But inspirationally—that's in the lap of the gods.

"If I'm lucky, I get a great inspiration and it's a good film. If I'm not lucky, I get less inspired, and it's not such a good film."

Kingsley voices animated villain in 'Boxtrolls' film

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Sir Ben Kingsley was lying down on the job while making his latest film, the stop-motion animated feature "The Boxtrolls."

Kingsley

"I did most of my recordings lying down, reclining on a kind of sofa bed," the 70-year-old Oscar winner told an audience Saturday at Comic-Con. "I wanted his voice to come from his belly, not from where my voice normally comes from. It was a very relaxed recording session, and I did nod off occasionally."

Kingsley added that he found it "very liberating just to depend upon my voice to bring this extraordinary creature to life."

Made by the studio behind "Coraline" and "ParaNorman," "The Boxtrolls" follows a family of underground creatures who come out after dark to collect above-ground garbage to construct their ever-evolving world. A human boy, voiced by Isaac Hempstead Wright of "Game of Thrones," lives among them and believes he, too, is a Boxtroll.

Kingsley's character, Snatcher, is convinced the creatures are evil and aims to put an end to them.

"Snatcher is designed to be one of the greatest, all-time animated villains, so he's got to have that sense of malevolence. He's got to be very intimidating and yet at the same time, there's sort of a degree of vulnerability there," filmmaker Travis Knight said. "We thought there was absolutely no chance we would get Ben Kingsley. When he said yes, we celebrated throughout the studio."

Other stars lending voices to the stop-motion film 10 years in the making are Elle Fanning (whose older sister, Dakota, voiced the lead character in "Coraline"), Nick Frost, Simon Pegg and Tracy Morgan.

The presentation ended with Kingsley and other cast members leading the audience of more than 6,000 in a cheer for Morgan, who was severely injured in a June auto accident. As the filmmakers captured video on their mobile phones, the crowd cheered, "We love you Tracy."

Comic-Con gets first look at 'Mockingjay' trailer

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The trailer for the next film in the popular "Hunger Games" series is making its premiere at Comic-Con.

Fans gathered Friday at the Capitol Gallery in downtown San Diego, where holographic versions of two characters from the film offered visitors a silent welcome before the minute-long teaser trailer was shown.

The trailer opens with a hovership landing and a meeting between leaders of the rebellion, where Phillip Seymour Hoffman and a gray-haired Julianne Moore discuss Katniss Everdeen's role. Meanwhile, President Snow (Donald Sutherland) declares the Mockingjay symbol illegal.

Katniss (Jennifer Lawrence) is shown entering the underground bunker where refugees of Panem are hiding, and she agrees to take up their cause.

Being the first to see the trailer for "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I" was only part of the Capitol Gallery experience, which occupied a portion of the Hard Rock Hotel. In an all-white setting inspired by President Snow's Capitol color scheme, visitors could enjoy treats from Peeta's bakery, witness colorful Capitol fashions, design souvenir T-shirts and have their photo taken with the holographic characters.

Even the trailer-viewing experience seemed designed by the Capitol: In an all-white room, fans were offered all-white candies and snacks before being shown into pod-like chairs, where they watched the trailer on personal Samsung tablets.

The trailer also can be seen on Samsung devices at Best Buy stores beginning Saturday before it's released widely next week.

AP

This photo released by Lionsgate shows, Philip Seymour Hoffman, left, as Plutarch Heavensbee and Julianne Moore as President Coin in a scene from the film, "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1."

Radcliffe goes undercover as Spidey at Comic-Con

SAN DIEGO (AP)—That guy in the Spider-Man suit you posed with at Comic-Con? It might have actually been Harry Potter.

Radcliffe

Daniel Radcliffe donned a Spidey mask to covertly mingle with fans on the showroom floor at the pop-culture convention.

"I did an American accent for the whole time," the British actor said in an interview Friday. "I even took a rucksack, so I look like I'm just coming to Comic-Con. I had a whole look. But it was great ... I took lots of pictures with people who did not know that it was me."

Radcliffe posed for plenty of photos with other costumed guests, and even inserted his Spidey-masked face into a poster for "Sharknado 2."

"(It) actually looked weirdly good," he said. "It looked like Spider-Man is in 'Sharknado 2.' "

The 25-year-old star made his first trip to Comic-Con to discuss his new film, "Horns," in which his character sprouts horns on his head that are invisible to others but cause them to confess to him their darkest truths.

A self-avowed superhero and comic-book fan, Radcliffe said he's long wanted to come to Comic-Con. Members of the "Harry Potter" cast have appeared in previous years, but the franchise star wasn't able to make it until now. Besides promoting his new film, Radcliffe also got to indulge his inner geek while dressed as Spider-Man.

"I always loved that character. I love the comics, actually, as well," he said. "I almost got a picture with two girls dressed as Mary Jane and Gwen Stacy, but the moment had passed."

Nude models, artists take to New York City

AP
A nude model is decorated by a body-painting artist as part of an event featuring artist Andy Golub, Saturday, July 26, 2014, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—New York really is "the naked city."

Artists in Manhattan painted the bodies of 40 nude models on Saturday, turning the Columbus Circle entrance to Central Park into an outdoor celebration of the human form.

Artist Andy Golub says New York was the only city in the country that would allow his inaugural Bodypainting Day. And he says that only happened after a legal battle.

Golub and a model were arrested in 2011 during a body-painting project in Times Square.

The city paid model Zoe West a $15,000 settlement after she sued over the arrest. Public nudity is legal in the city if it's part of a performance, exhibition or show.

Golub's event Saturday included a post-painting march down Broadway and a return to Times Square for a photo shoot.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

5 Seconds of Summer get hands-on with ticket sales

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—The rising pop-rock band 5 Seconds of Summer gave its feverish female fans the surprise of a lifetime by personally selling tickets Saturday morning for an upcoming concert in Inglewood, California. Many fans, including 13-year-old Trina Umana, camped out overnight at The Forum to get seats for the Australian group's first U.S. headlining concert on Nov. 15. "I can't speak right now. I'm too overwhelmed," she sobbed after purchasing her tickets from guitarist Michael Clifford. The quartet is currently opening for One Direction on their "Where We Are" tour. Their self-titled debut album featuring Top 40 hits "She Looks So Perfect" and "Amnesia" came out last week. The band's EP dropped in March and debuted at No. 2 on the Billboard 200 albums chart.

'Ant-Man' cast revealed: Lilly, Douglas, Rudd

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The "Ant-Man" cast is set. Paul Rudd was previously revealed as the tiny title superhero. But at Marvel's Comic-Con panel Saturday, Evangeline Lilly confirmed she'll play Hope Pym. Michael Douglas plays her dad, Dr. Hank Pym. And Corey Stoll is set to play the villain Darren Cross, also known as Yellowjacket. Rudd called the role "a mind-bender." Douglas said he'd long looked at Marvel films "from afar with tremendous envy" and was excited to join the comic-based world. Director Peyton Reed, who took over for Edgar Wright after he exited over creative issues, has been coming to Comic-Con for 20 years and been an "Ant-Man" fan for even longer. Marvel chief Kevin Feige said production on the film, due in theaters next summer, is set to begin in two weeks. Even though shooting hasn't begun, filmmakers offered a peek at the film's look. A brief clip showed Dr. Pym's laboratory and a diminutive superhero piloting a fly.

Marvel announces 'Guardians of the Galaxy' sequel

SAN DIEGO (AP)—"Guardians of the Galaxy" hasn't opened in theaters yet, but a sequel is already in the works. Director James Gunn and star Chris Pratt announced the planned sequel Saturday during Marvel Studios' Comic-Con presentation. "Guardians of the Galaxy" follows a motley team of otherworldly misfits, including a talking raccoon, led by Pratt's character. The film opens Friday. The sequel is set for release on July 28, 2017.

Alba reveals her 'Sin City' dark side at Comic-Con

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Jessica Alba told the crowd at Comic-Con that she got in touch with the dark side for her return to "Sin City."

The "Fantastic Four" and "Dark Angel" star is reprising her role as exotic dancer and revenge seeker Nancy Callahan in "Sin City: A Dame to Kill For," a prequel to the 2005 graphic novel adaptation "Sin City."

"I just really connected with the dark side of Nancy," Alba told fans Saturday at the pop-culture convention. "It was hard to detach from that until the movie was over."

Frank Miller, the film's co-director and graphic novel creator, didn't initially understand the effect that returning to the role had on Alba's personality.

"I haven't seen her in eight years, how did I piss her off?" joked Miller.

Alba said she worked with an acting coach and choreographer before production, which was a special-effects-laden endeavor mostly shot in front of green screens.

"The second time, I felt comfortable. I felt like a woman," Alba said.

'Avengers' unleash 'Ultron' footage at Comic-Con

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Several members of "The Avengers" descended on Comic-Con on Saturday to debut the first footage from the upcoming superhero sequel.

Robert Downey Jr. , Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo and Jeremy Renner were on hand with other cast members from "The Avengers: Age of Ultron," including Samuel L. Jackson and Cobie Smulders.

The footage kicked off with the Marvel superhero team attempting to pick up Thor's mighty hammer before launching into a barrage of action-packed imagery, including Hulk battling a giant robot resembling Iron Man and Thor grabbing Tony Stark by the throat. The footage ended with a bleak scene of all the Avengers fallen with a haunting close up of Captain America's shield split down the middle.

"If I lift it, do I get to rule Asgard?" Stark asked while trying to lift Thor's hammer—both with and without an Iron Man gauntlet.

The cast were joined on stage at the San Diego Convention Center by newcomers Elizabeth Olsen, Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Paul Bettany and James Spader, who personifies the villainous mechanical force Ultron in the sequel.

'Blacklist' fans get black fedoras at Comic-Con

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Fans gathered for the panel for NBC's drama "The Blacklist" on Saturday received black fedoras, in honor of the character played by James Spader.

On "The Blacklist," Spader is Raymond "Red" Reddington, a fedora-wearing former fugitive who turns himself in to be an informant. The catch: He will only deal with rookie agent Elizabeth, played by Megan Boone.

As season one unfolded, speculation grew that Red could be Elizabeth's father.

On Saturday's panel, Spader, along with executive producers Jon Bokenkamp and John Eisendrath, wouldn't say much about the true nature of their relationship.

Bokenkamp acknowledged "that question is central to the conceit of the show" but said they wouldn't provide an answer right then.

Spader said he believes what's important is the character's relationship in present day.

There was also a casting announcement: Mary-Louise Parker has a recurring role with ties to Reddington.

Son-in-law's abusive father makes family gathering painful

DEAR ABBY: I adore my son-in-law, "Tom." He's a wonderful husband to our daughter. He's always inviting us to dinner along with his parents and family. We get along with them, but can't stand how they treat Tom. We have never seen parents treat their children the way they treat him—especially the father. Tom is practically begging for his approval and attention on a daily basis.

The last time we had dinner together, you could see the hurt and embarrassment on Tom's face after his father spoke to him. I desperately want to say something to the father, but I don't know if I should. What would you do in this situation?

DESPERATELY WANTS TO HELP

DEAR WANTS TO HELP: I'd sit down with Tom and tell him how much I love him, how I appreciate the wonderful way he treats my daughter, and say what a joy it is that he is a part of my family. Then I'd tell Tom his father's behavior is uncalled for, and how painful it is to watch because he doesn't deserve it.

I would explain that some people in this world try to control others by withholding affection and approval, and regrettably, it's a technique abusive parents—and sometimes lovers—use to exert control over those who love them and want only to be loved and accepted. And then I would ask him if he wanted me to call his father on it, because watching it happen is painful and prevents you from enjoying the dinner.

P.S. Counseling might help Tom recognize what's going on and give him the tools to handle his father, if he's open to it.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 17 and feeling so sad because I just lost my dad. I can't talk to my stepmom because she's too busy hanging out with her friends, drinking and partying. My dad died a couple of months ago, and she's already having sex with my dad's friends. I heard them talking about it. I have no other family that I can go to. I really hate her right now! Please tell me what to do.

GRIEVING IN FLORIDA

DEAR GRIEVING: Please know how sorry I am for the loss of your father. It would be helpful for you to find another adult to talk to about your feelings. Because you have no family other than your stepmother, perhaps the mother of one of your friends would listen and guide you. If that's not possible, and you belong to a church, you should talk to the minister.

Hating your stepmom isn't the answer. She may be acting the way she is because she's trying to cope with the loss of your father by attempting to distract herself from the pain. It won't work, by the way, but she may have to learn that by trial and error. A grief-support group could be helpful for both of you.

TO MY MUSLIM READERS: The fast of Ramadan is officially ended. Happy Eid al-Fitr, everyone. May God make yours a blessed feast.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

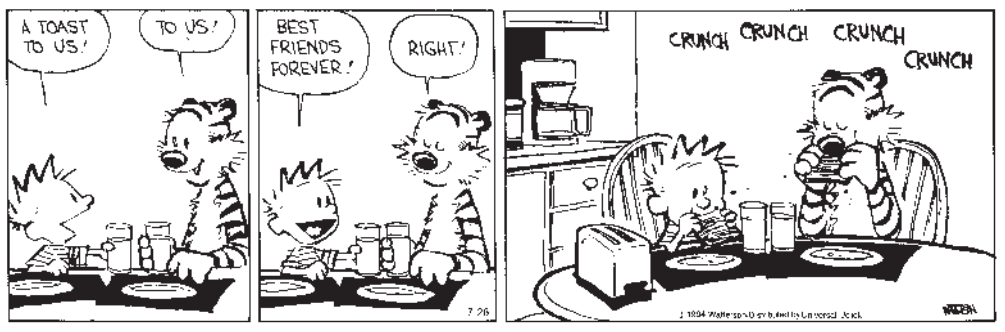
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

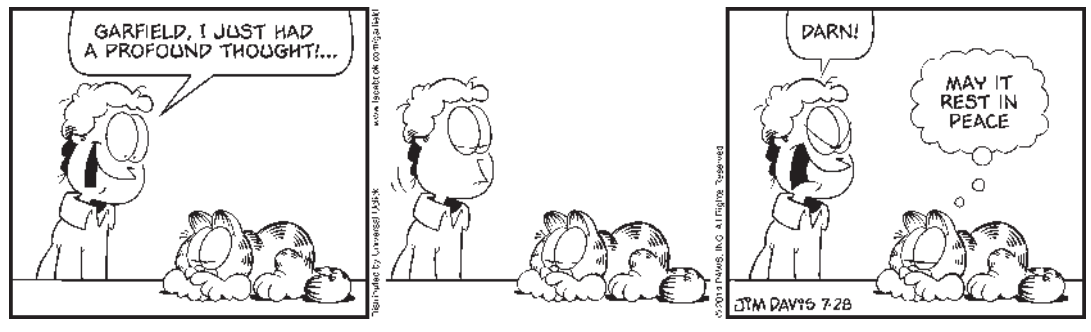
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



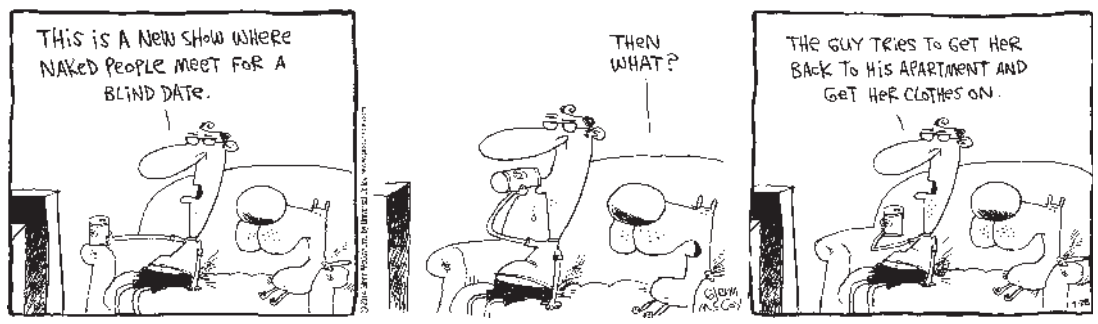
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DAD, WILL YOU PLAY "SKIP TO MY LOO LOO" WITH ME?
OH... I... UM... WELL...
HAVEN'T YOU OUTGROWN "SKIP TO MY LOO LOO"? IT'S KIND OF A LITTLE KID'S GAME, ISN'T IT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THIS GAME IS A NAIL-BITING THRILL RIDE!
DANGER LURKS WITH THE FLIP OF EACH NEW "FOO FOO" CARD!
FINE. CAN I FIX A DRINK FIRST?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


THIS IS A NEW SHOW WHERE NAKED PEOPLE MEET FOR A BLIND DATE.
THEN WHAT?
THE GUY TRIES TO GET HER BACK TO HIS APARTMENT AND GET HER CLOTHES ON.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Small plateau
5 "Fee-fie-fo- —!"
8 Harvester's collection
12 Pay off gradually
14 Peru's capital
15 Sofia's place
16 Now, on a memo
17 Before
18 Paparazzo's need
20 Food from heaven
23 Black belt activity
24 Fired a gun
25 Jungle illness
28 Woman, informally
29 Overly theatrical
30 Martini ingredient
32 Region of Germany
34 Soft drink
35 Ontario neighbor
36 Knapsack part
37 Decline
40 Tavern
41 Yale students
42 Schubert masterpiece
47 Cleopatra's river
48 Subscription extensions
49 Highway fee
50 Chopper
51 Look for

DOWN
1 Folkloric fairy queen
2 Ostrich's cousin
3 Fa follower
4 Silver, heraldry
5 Conflagration
6 Submachine gun
7 Latin "Oops!"
8 Din
9 Get up
10 Actor Sharif
11 Hemingway sobriquet
13 O'Hara's plantation
19 "Rome wasn't built in —"
20 Flavor enhancer, for short
21 Moby-Dick's pursuer
22 The Big Easy acronym
23 Foxx or Farr
25 Red sauce
26 Composer Stravinsky
27 Verdi opera
29 Give a darn
31 Siesta
33 Container
34 They're drawn randomly
36 Unchanged
37 Departed
38 Hodgepodge
39 Streamlet
40 Part of N.B.
43 Irritate
44 "Norma —"
45 — -de-France
46 Invite

Solution time: 27 mins.

J	O	T		L	A	N	D		D	A	S	H
E	A	R		O	L	E	C		E			E
T	R	I	P	I	F	T	S		S	O	D	A
		P	A	L	E			M	E	I	E	H
J	O	W		S		L	A	I	R			
A	V	I	S		T	O	G	E	T	H	E	R
M	E	R		C	A	B	I	N		E	D	O
B	R	E	T	H	R	E	N		S	A	G	A
			H	O	O	D		W	I	D	E	R
A	R	R	O	W			D	A	F	T		
B	E	A	R		A	I	R	S	T	R		P
B	E	T	A		S	L	O	P		I	D	O
A		E	X		A	L	P	S		P	A	X

Friday's answer 7-25

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				13				■	14			
15								■	16			
■	■	■	17			■	18	19				
20	21	22			■	23				■	■	■
24				■	25					26	27	■
28			■	29					■	30		31
■	32		33					■	34			
■	■	■	35				■	36				
37	38	39				■	40			■	■	■
41				■	42	43				44	45	46
47				■	48							
49				■	50			■	51			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lori Loughlin, 50; Sally Struthers, 67; Jim Davis, 69, Peter Cullen, 73.

Happy Birthday: You will think big this year. Sticking to a budget will be necessary and focus will be required. Too much of anything will get you into trouble. A change will be good, but only if it helps you make your life more manageable. There is nothing wrong with setting reasonable goals. You can pursue adventure without going overboard. Your numbers are 5, 16, 22, 24, 30, 41, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Pick and choose wisely. Concentrate on things, people, projects and pastimes that will bring you the highest return. Remain centered but ready to participate and eager to contribute your creative insight. Keep your domestic life financially stable. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Consistency will be your salvation. Don't allow anyone to set you off emotionally, causing impulsive reactions that can upset your relationships with people at home or at work. Use your head and remain compassionate and mindful. Put love first. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Get out and explore. Mini trips or interacting with people from unusual backgrounds or who have unique hobbies will grab your interest. Consider ways you can fine-tune your job or update what you do to better suit the changing times. Cater to domestic needs. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Good fortune will come from an unusual source. Don't feel you have to make an impulsive move to help someone. Chances are good that whoever is demanding help has less to complain about than you. Follow your heart and remember that charity begins at home. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Taking on too much or overreacting to pressure being put on you will cost you personally. Make whatever change is required to ease up your time and ensure that you get something in return. Take care of your health and your financial well-being. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): A change of heart can be expected if someone takes advantage of you financially or physically. Look out for your own interests and refuse to let anyone bully you. You can boost your cash flow if you stay focused on personal investments. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Your contribution to a fundraising event will change how others view you. An opportunity will arise that will allow you to utilize your skills in a diverse, creative and helpful manner. Showing emotion will encourage others to pitch in and help. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Listen to what others have to say and be aware of the contributions being made. There is more going on around you than you realize and overreacting prematurely will be costly. Home improvements and open discussions will prove to be informative. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Make personal changes that will improve your living conditions, financial status and knowledge regarding people from different backgrounds. Having a better understanding of a situation you face will make it easier to deal with. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Listen carefully and respond respectfully. Do a little extra to help someone going through a difficult time. Your ability to go above and beyond the call of duty will be repaid when you need help. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Put your time into important partnerships, what you do for a living and establishing new ways to utilize your skills, knowledge and time. Sign up for a course that will help you improve your current lifestyle. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Listen carefully to someone offering suggestions. Money matters can turn into substantial gains if you budget and invest in your skills, knowledge and endeavors. Love and romance will improve your personal life and bring you greater happiness. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining and energetic. You are competitive and outgoing.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			6		2			
5				7				2
	1		3	9	5		6	
8		4				7		3
	7	5		2		6	9	
3		2				5		1
	3		5	1	4		8	
6				3				7
			8		7			

Difficulty Level ★ 7/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

7	9	3	5	8	4	2	1	6
2	6	5	1	7	3	8	9	4
1	4	8	6	9	2	7	5	3
8	3	2	7	5	9	4	6	1
4	7	9	2	6	1	3	8	5
6	5	1	4	3	8	9	2	7
9	1	7	8	4	5	6	3	2
5	8	4	3	2	6	1	7	9
3	2	6	9	1	7	5	4	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GARDENING TIME Solution: 9 letters

W	P	S	L	T	E	K	S	A	B	O	R	D	E	R
C	O	N	S	E	R	V	A	T	O	R	Y	A	R	D
S	T	R	L	E	V	E	G	E	T	A	B	L	E	S
P	S	R	G	A	E	O	E	S	U	P	P	O	R	T
R	H	D	I	W	I	T	H	S	I	R	U	O	N	I
I	E	Ⓢ	F	M	O	T	A	S	P	S	R	E	C	U
N	R	Ⓝ	R	O	O	R	N	R	I	N	H	K	O	R
G	B	Ⓘ	U	E	U	I	R	E	O	A	O	A	M	F
P	S	Ⓟ	N	R	W	N	S	A	D	C	S	R	P	O
D	L	I	O	S	P	O	T	T	B	I	E	E	O	L
M	I	A	R	B	O	R	L	A	U	L	S	D	S	I
U	E	G	N	I	M	R	A	F	I	R	E	E	T	A
L	K	T	L	T	E	S	U	O	H	N	E	E	R	G
C	E	S	E	H	C	N	E	B	R	D	S	W	H	E
H	N	U	T	R	I	E	N	T	S	T	O	O	R	W

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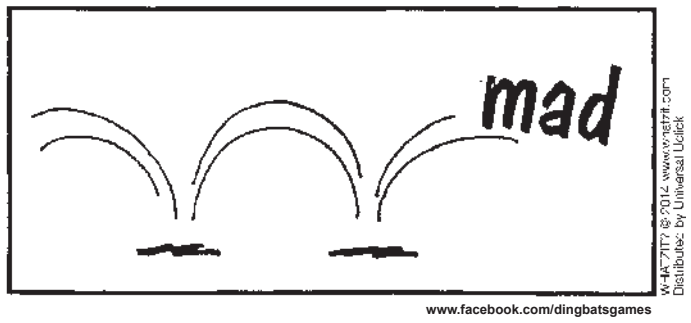

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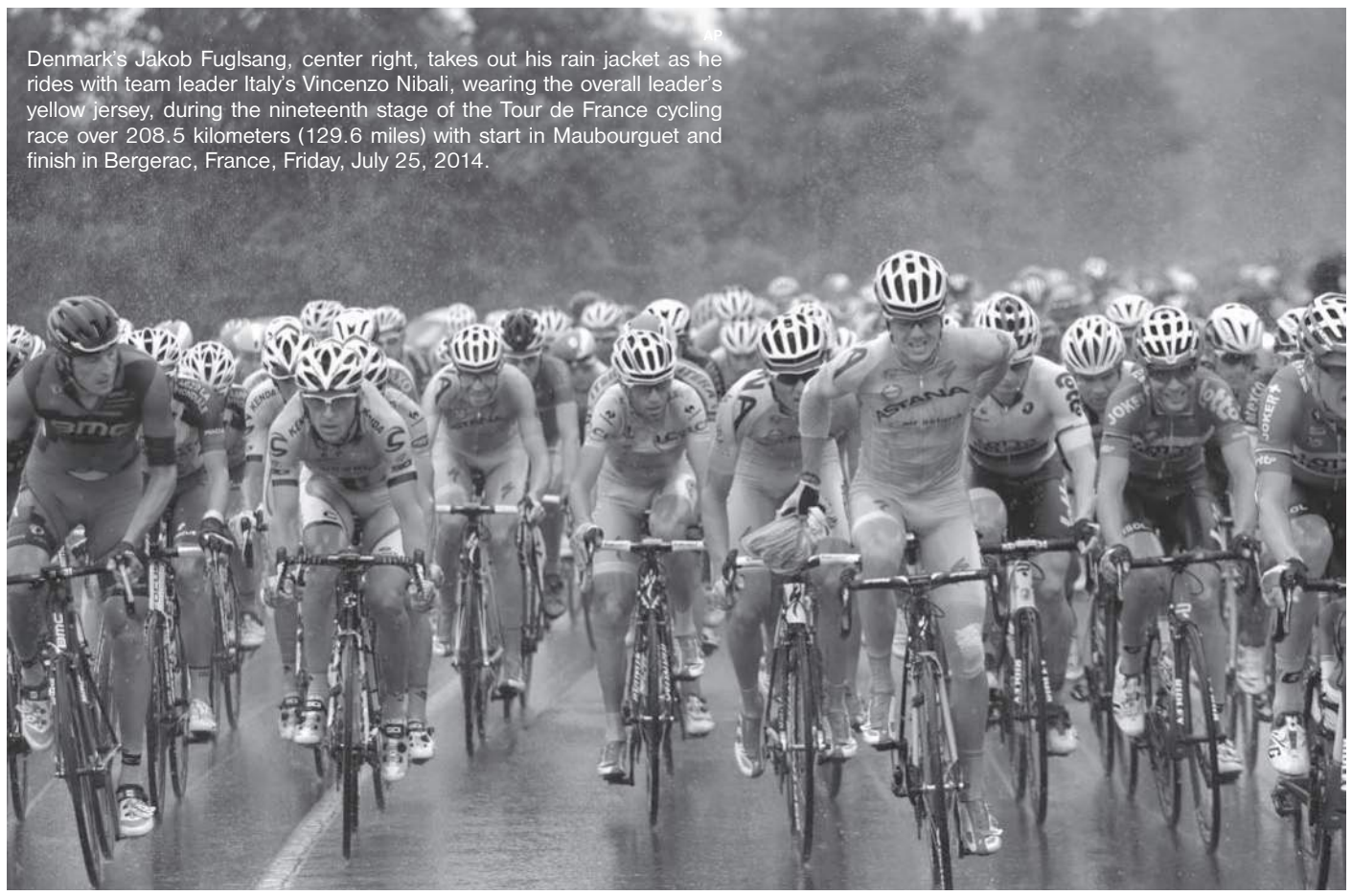
Nibali zeroes in on Tour de France win


Denmark's Jakob Fuglsang, center right, takes out his rain jacket as he rides with team leader Italy's Vincenzo Nibali, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, during the nineteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 208.5 kilometers (129.6 miles) with start in Maubourguet and finish in Bergerac, France, Friday, July 25, 2014.

BERGERAC, France (AP) —Ramunas Navardauskas gave Lithuania and his American team a stage victory Friday at the Tour de France. Now cycling's great showcase is reduced to this - the race for second place behind Vincenzo Nibali.

The Italian, who has all but won the yellow jersey, cruised to the finish in Stage 19 in the rain-splattered pack behind the Lithuanian's breakaway. Only a mishap of the highest order during Saturday's time trial would deny Nibali victory in Paris on Sunday.

With cool and methodical racing, Nibali has bit by bit built a lead of more than seven minutes on his closest rivals, and much more against many others. Frenchmen Thibaut Pinot and Jean-Christophe Peraud and Spaniard Alejandro Valverde are vying for second and third.

The showdown comes down to Saturday's 54-kilometer (33.5-mile) race against the clock from Bergerac to Perigueux. Relatively long by Tour standards, the time trial will require riders to maintain a steady rhythm and face the wind or rain on their own without the protection of the pack.

Only 15 seconds separate the three riders behind Nibali. Pinot trails the leader by 7 minutes, 10 seconds. Peraud is 7:23 back, with Valverde two seconds slower. Pinot is considered the least skilled among the three in time trials.

''Tomorrow is the most important stage of the Tour,'' Pinot said. ''I'll have to be strong.''

Next in the standings is France's Romain Bardet, a teammate of Peraud's on the AG2R La Mondiale team. But he's more than two minutes behind Valverde and not considered strong in time trials. American Tejay van Garderen is regarded as strong, but he's another two minutes slower in sixth place - and erasing his four-minute deficit to join the podium contenders would be no small feat.

In reverse order of the standings, riders on Saturday set off one by one down the starter's ramp at several-minute intervals over more than six hours. Cheng Ji of Giant-Shimano, the first rider from China in the race, will go first. Nibali goes last.

The not-quite flat and long course will require riders to muster all the strength they have left in legs that have suffered, strained and burned over three weeks - a trek that began in the hills and dales of Yorkshire, England, covered coarse cobblestones and ascended several mountain peaks.

''There's no real danger, it's not too technical - it's really power that will matter,'' race director Thierry Gouvenou said, referring to the time trial. ''There's just a little climb at the end, but after you've covered the Alps and the Pyrenees, it's really a little climb.''

Three-time world time-trial champion Tony Martin of Germany is perhaps the favorite to win the stage, Gouvenou said, but ''when you reach this part of the Tour de France, it's really a question of freshness and what you have left in the tank.''

Just as Italy is eager for its first Tour winner since Marco Pantani in 1998, many French fans are ebullient at the prospect that the first rider from the race's homeland will reach the podium for the first time since Richard Virenque in 1997.

Those two success stories, however, came at the height of cycling's doping scandal. Both riders were later sanctioned in connection with banned performance enhancers. Since then, with a crackdown on drugs cheats in place, the peloton has cleaned up considerably.

Navardauskas rides for the Garmin-Sharp team, which has been among the most outspoken against doping. He led a late breakaway in a downpour to win the 208.5-kilometer (129.5-mile) stage from Maubourguet to Bergerac. He looked over his shoulder, kissed his fingers and raised his arms in victory, with the pack barreling in behind him seven seconds later.

He became the first Lithuanian to win an individual stage in the Tour. In 2011, he was on the Garmin-Cervelo squad that won the team time trial at the Tour that year. He also won a stage in last year's Italian Giro.

Big Ben OK with choice to wait on new deal

PITTSBURGH (AP)—There are days when Ben Roethlisberger can feel every single hit he's absorbed during a decade as one of the NFL's most fearless quarterbacks.

And there are days when the Pittsburgh Steelers star sees the young faces surrounding him in the huddle and it seems like he can play forever.

Yet at age 32 with small flecks of gray in his stubble, Roethlisberger knows he's in the second half of a career that already includes two Super Bowl rings.

While he understands the NFL is a business, Roethlisberger has no plans to entertain the idea of taking his business somewhere other than Pittsburgh.

Not now. Not next summer. Not ever if Roethlisberger has his way. And as far as he knows, his boss - Steelers president Art Rooney II - feels the same. Until that changes for either side, concern over his status is nothing more than misguided speculation.

''I've always said it's up to the good Lord and Mr. Rooney when I'm done,'' Roethlisberger told The Associated Press on Saturday.

Translation: he's not going anywhere.

Though Roethlisberger would have liked to have a new contract in place by the time the 2014 regular season opens, he is hardly worried about his future after Rooney announced on Friday the team will wait until next spring to iron out a deal.

''To get it signed and to have that security would have been nice, but there's other plans and I'm OK with that,'' Roethlisberger said.

Roethlisberger has two seasons left on the eight-year, $102 million contract he signed in 2008. It was one of the most lucrative contracts in the league at the time.

Now the average value ranks below contemporaries such as Matthew Stafford, Tony Romo and Jay Cutler, players who have yet to make a Super Bowl much less win it twice.

Pressed on if he pays attention to how much others who have lesser resumes but higher salaries are paid, Roethlisberger says only ''it's tricky.''

Don't get him wrong, he's aware of what he's accomplished. He's also aware the Rooneys need to find a way to pay 52 other players on the roster.

''I have faith that the Steelers will do what we need to do when it's time and that's putting people on the field through free agency, trades, draft everything to make us the best team we can possibly be,'' Roethlisberger said.

If he sounds like a grown-up, maybe that's because he is.

The hard-partying 20-something once suspended by the NFL for violating its personal conduct policy is now a married father of two who takes his son to Pittsburgh Pirates games and is already thinking about where 1-year-old Ben Jr. and infant daughter Baylee, born in March, will one day attend school.

His priorities have changed. His drive has not.

Coming off consecutive 8-8 seasons that at times left him equal parts frustrated and mystified, he is focused but upbeat.

Whatever tension he and fiery offensive coordinator Todd Haley may have had early in Haley's tenure has eased. A resurgent second half in 2013 certainly helped.

Emboldened by Haley to operate more freely out of the no-huddle offense,

Kevin Love withdraws from Team USA

NEW YORK (AP)—Kevin Love still doesn't know where he will play next season, his NBA future hanging in the air while a seldom-used league rule complicates a potential trade to Cleveland.

The only thing certain from a basketball standpoint for Love is that he won't be playing for Team USA this summer.

Love had to withdraw from Team USA's roster while the Minnesota Timberwolves field offers for their three-time All-Star, a process that was extended when Cavaliers rookie Andrew Wiggins signed his contract this week.

Love is the latest All-Star to pull out of Team USA, which begins its training camp in Las Vegas next week to prepare for the FIBA World Cup in Spain. In recent weeks the Americans have lost Blake Griffin, LaMarcus Aldridge and NBA Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard. They have 18 players remaining and will choose 12 for the World Cup of Basketball roster.

Love, who won gold medals at the 2012 Olympics and 2010 world championship and was one of the first players to commit to play this summer, told USA Basketball chairman Jerry Colangelo that he would be unavailable for training camp that starts Monday.

"He wants to play but it's a little bit of a sign of the times when you look at the league in terms of contracts, rumored trades," Colangelo said. "All of those circumstances put players in a funny position."

The Cavaliers have been in pursuit of Love since before the draft. Their chances of landing Love, who can opt out of his contract next summer and has told the Timberwolves he wants to play for a contender, increased exponentially when LeBron James chose to return to play in Cleveland.

The Timberwolves have demanded Wiggins, the No. 1 overall draft pick, in a package in return for Love and the Cavaliers have gradually softened on their position to include the dynamic 19-year-old wing player in trade talks.

Under NBA rules, Wiggins cannot be traded until 30 days after he signed his contract with the Cavaliers. That means any possible deal could not be completed and announced by the teams until Aug. 23 at the earliest.

That length of time allows other teams to make offers for Love as well, but also makes it too risky for Love to participate with Team USA. An injury could derail any trade possibilities, so Love had to take the difficult step of informing Colangelo on Friday night that he would not be able to participate.

It had to be a tough call for Love to make. He has long held playing for Team USA as one of the highest honors possible and has referred to his experience of winning gold in London as the pinnacle of his young career. While other big stars like James were stepping away from the team to get some rest this summer, Love took pride last year in joining with Kevin Durant to be among the first elite players to recommit to the World Cup team.

"I think he truly is remorseful," Colangelo said.

Love was a vital piece to the London team, giving the Americans a rebounding presence and a much-needed big man to stretch the floor. But Colangelo said the team would be able to get by without him, pointing to an experienced roster and rising star Anthony Davis, who was on the Olympic team but played only sparingly.

"It's not like there's a barrel full of power forwards that can rebound and shoot the ball like Kevin Love," Colangelo said.

But in international competition, where teams generally play smaller than they do in the NBA, players such as Indiana's Paul George and Dallas Mavericks forward Chandler Parsons could help fill the void. DeMarcus Cousins, Andre Drummond and Kenneth Faried are the other big men on the roster that could give the Americans a presence in the paint.

Blue Jays end 17-game skid at Yankee Stadium

NEW YORK (AP) — Dan Johnson drove in four runs with a go-ahead infield hit and a three-run homer, helping Toronto end its 17-game losing streak at Yankee Stadium on Saturday.

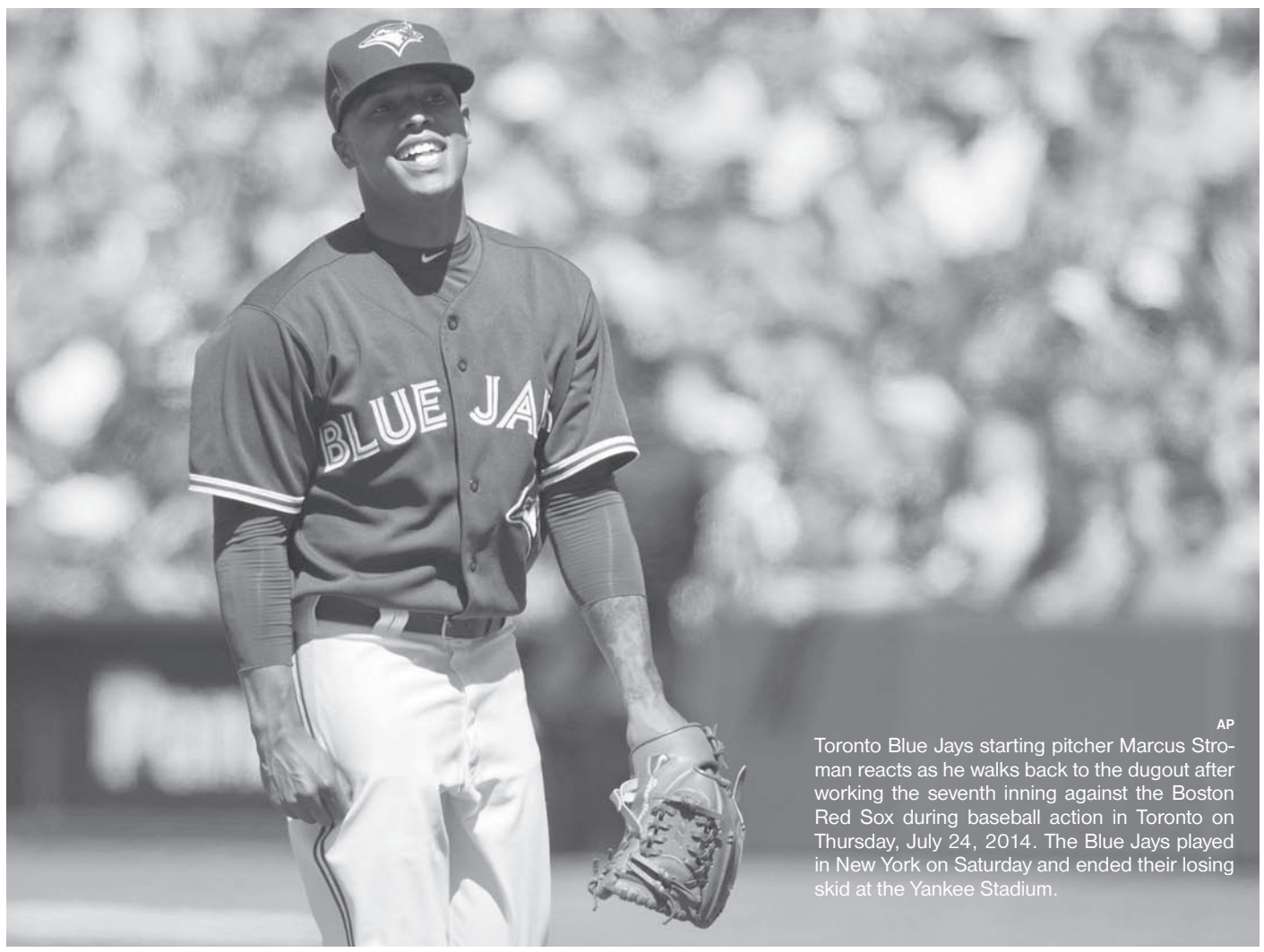
Brian McCann's two-run homer put New York ahead in the fourth inning, but Johnson drove in the tiebreaking run in the seventh with a 70-foot bloop that fell in front of second baseman Brian Roberts.

Johnson's ninth-inning drive off Jeff Francis, which extended the lead to 6-2, was his first homer since hitting three for the Chicago White Sox at Cleveland on Oct. 3, 2012.

Drew Hutchison (7-9) stopped a three-start skid to win for the first time since July 1.

Chris Capuano failed to get a decision in his Yankees debut. Shawn Kelley (1-3) was the loser.

Toronto, like New York chasing Baltimore in the AL East, had not won at Yankee Stadium since Aug. 29, 2012. New York lost for just the second time in eight games since the All-Star break.



AP

Toronto Blue Jays starting pitcher Marcus Stroman reacts as he walks back to the dugout after working the seventh inning against the Boston Red Sox during baseball action in Toronto on Thursday, July 24, 2014. The Blue Jays played in New York on Saturday and ended their losing skid at the Yankee Stadium.

Reds 1, Nationals 0

In Cincinnati, Johnny Cueto struck out nine in seven innings on Saturday, and Brayan Pena singled through a drawn-in infield for the only run, leading the Cincinnati Reds to a 1-0 victory over the Washington Nationals that ended a seven-game losing streak.

Cincinnati ended its longest skid in five years by getting several good defensive plays and another dominating performance by its All-Star starter. Cueto (11-6) gave up four hits and walked three.

Left-hander Aroldis Chapman pitched out of a two-on, two-out threat in the eighth and finished for his 22nd save in 24 chances. He extended his streak of at least one strikeout in his last 43 appearances, the longest by a reliever in the majors since 1900.

Rays 3, Red Sox 0

In St. Petersburgh, Ben Zobrist homered, Matt Joyce and Kevin Kiermaier each had an RBI single, and Tampa Bay beat skidding Boston for its ninth consecutive victory.

The stretch is the second-longest in team history, three short of a 12-game winning streak in June 2004.

John Lackey (11-7) came up short in his first attempt to earn his 150th win, giving up three runs and eight hits over seven innings.

Before the game, the Red Sox traded right-hander Jake Peavy and cash to San Francisco for minor league pitchers Edwin Escobar and Heath Hembree. Boston, last in the AL East one season after winning the World Series, has lost five straight.

Cardinals 6, Cubs 3

In Chicago, Matt Adams drove in four runs, A.J. Pierzynski had three hits in his St. Louis debut and the Cardinals beat Chicago to stop a four-game skid.

Shelby Miller returned to the Cardinals' rotation and pitched 5 2-3 effective innings. Adams hit a two-run double in the first and a two-run triple in a four-run seventh that was capped by Pierzynski's RBI single.

Randy Choate (2-2) got the last out of the sixth. Trevor Rosenthal worked around two hits in a scoreless ninth, earning his 31st save in 35 tries.

The 37-year-old Pierzynski signed with the Cardinals on Saturday, 10 days after he was released by Boston. St. Louis had been looking for a steady presence behind the plate since All-Star catcher Yadier Molina tore a ligament in his right thumb July 9.

Mariners 4, Orioles 3

In Seattle, Chris Young allowed two hits in seven shutout innings, and Seattle snapped a four-game losing streak by holding off Baltimore.

Dustin Ackley doubled twice and scored two runs for the Mariners. Robinson Cano had an RBI double.

After the Orioles took advantage of an error by All-Star third baseman Kyle Seager to score three times in the eighth, Fernando Rodney closed it out for his 200th career save.

Young (9-6), who did not pitch in the majors last season, walked three and matched his season high with eight strikeouts. He has won nine games for the first time since 2007 with San Diego.

Athletics 5, Rangers 1

In Arlington, Sonny Gray won his sixth straight decision, helped when Oakland hit four home runs in a six-batter span to beat Texas.

The Athletics trailed 1-0 when John Jaso hit a two-run drive with two outs in the sixth inning. Yoenis Cespedes followed with his 17th home run.

Josh Donaldson led off the seventh with another home run and Josh Reddick connected two batters later.

Gray (12-3) allowed seven hits over 6 2-3 innings. He didn't give up more than one earned run in any of his five July starts.

Brewers 5, Mets 2

In Milwaukee, Wily Peralta earned his team-leading 12th win, and Mark Reynolds homered in Milwaukee's victory over New York.

Jonathan Lucroy, Ryan Braun and Khris Davis added run-scoring hits for the NL Central leaders.

Peralta (12-6) labored through 5 2-3 innings, giving up six hits and two runs.

Four relievers held the Mets scoreless over the final 3 1-3 innings. Francisco Rodriguez, who blew a save and took the loss Friday night, recorded his 30th save in 34 chances.

Rockies 8, Pirates 1

In Denver, Nolan Arenado bounced back from a benching with three hits, including a home run, and Colorado routed Pittsburgh.

Tyler Matzek (2-4) pitched three-hit ball over seven scoreless innings for his first win since his major league debut June 11 against Atlanta. Drew Stubbs and Corey Dickerson also homered for the Rockies, who have won three straight.

Ike Davis denied Colorado its first shutout at Coors Field this season with a one-out homer in the ninth.

It was a bounce-back performance for Arenado, removed from Friday's game when he didn't hustle down the line on a grounder to the pitcher in the fourth inning.

Marlins 7, Astros 3

In Houston, Giancarlo Stanton hit a three-run double, and Jordany Valdespin added a two-run homer to power Miami past Houston.

Stanton's double in the second inning broke a 2-all tie. Christian Yelich had two hits, including an RBI single as part of the four-run outburst. Valdespin hit his first homer of the season in the ninth off Chad Qualls.

Tom Koehler (7-7) gave up three runs and nine hits in five innings.

Jason Castro hit an early two-run homer and Jose Altuve had three hits for Houston, which lost its fourth straight and fell a season-high 20 games under .500.

White Sox 7, Twins 0

In Minneapolis, Chris Sale tied a season high with 12 strikeouts in eight dominant innings, Alexei Ramirez hit his 10th homer and Chicago defeated Minnesota for its third straight win over the Twins.

Sale (10-1) scattered five hits — all singles — and became the first White Sox starter to win 10 of his first 11 decisions in a season since Mark Buehrle in 2005. It was also Sale's 15th career game with 10 or more strikeouts, moving him into a tie for second on the franchise list with Juan Pizarro.

Chicago had its way against Logan Darnell (0-1) in his first major league start. A day after being recalled to fill in for injured Kyle Gibson, Darnell allowed seven runs and 11 hits while striking out seven in five innings.

Braves 5, Padres 3

In Atlanta, Freddie Freeman had three hits and an RBI, Julio Teheran earned his team-high 10th win and Atlanta took advantage of Odrisamer Despaigne's control problems to beat San Diego.

Tommy La Stella also had three hits and Chris Johnson drove in two runs as the Braves moved within 1 1/2 games of NL East-leading Washington.

Teheran (10-6) allowed three runs on nine hits and no walks in six innings. He also drove in a run with a squeeze bunt.

Despaigne (2-2) walked five and also was wild on a crucial throw to third base for an error in Atlanta's four-run fourth. The right-hander from Cuba lasted only 3 2-3 innings and allowed five runs, two earned, on six hits.

Royals 7, Indians 5

In Kansas City, Billy Butler homered for the second consecutive game and Kansas City overcame a five-run deficit to beat Cleveland for its fifth straight win.

A day after his pinch-hit, two-run homer in the eighth inning beat the Indians, Butler connected for a tiebreaking shot in the fifth off Nick Hagadone.

Nori Aoki hit a two-run triple in the fourth.

Carlos Santana hit his third homer in two games for Cleveland, which has lost six of seven.

Jeremy Guthrie (6-9) won despite giving up five runs and 10 hits in 5 2-3 innings. Greg Holland, the fourth Kansas City reliever, got his 27th save in 29 chances.

Diamondbacks 10, Phillies 6, 10 innings

In Philadelphia, Martin Prado homered, doubled and drove in five runs, including a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the 10th inning to lift Arizona over Philadelphia.

Pinch-hitter Nick Evans' three-run homer capped the Diamondbacks' four-run 10th. Evan Marshall (3-2) pitched a scoreless ninth to earn the win.

Marlon Byrd and Cody Asche homered for the Phillies, who blew a four-run lead and have lost eight of 11. Chase Utley had three hits and an RBI.

Antonio Bastardo (4-4) took the loss.

Dodgers 5, Giants 0

In San Francisco, Clayton Kershaw threw a two-hitter to win his ninth straight decision, leading the Los Angeles Dodgers over San Francisco.

Adrian Gonzalez had three hits and an RBI, and Juan Uribe had two hits and two RBIs to help the Dodgers move into first place in the NL West, a half-game ahead of the Giants.

Kershaw (12-2) walked one and struck out seven in his ninth career shutout and second this season. It also was his fourth complete game of the year and 15th of his career. The left-hander improved to 12-6 with a 1.40 ERA in 23 career games against the Giants, including 7-2 with a 0.69 ERA at AT&T Park.

Angels 4, Tigers 0

In Anaheim, Efren Navarro hit his first major league homer off Justin Verlander, and Matt Shoemaker combined with two relievers on a four-hitter as the Los Angeles Angels beat Detroit.

Shoemaker (8-3) threw just 78 pitches through seven innings, allowing three hits and no walks while striking out five against a lineup that came in leading the AL in batting average, hits, on-base percentage and slugging percentage. The only hits off the right-hander were Ian Kinsler's first-inning double and singles by Eugenio Suarez and Austin Jackson.

Kevin Jepsen pitched a perfect eighth, and Jason Grilli got the last three outs. Jepsen has allowed only one earned run over his last 31 2-3 innings and 35 appearances.

The AL Central leaders were shut out for the fifth time this season, and their division lead over Kansas City was reduced to five games.

Hawaiian Rock notches second straight win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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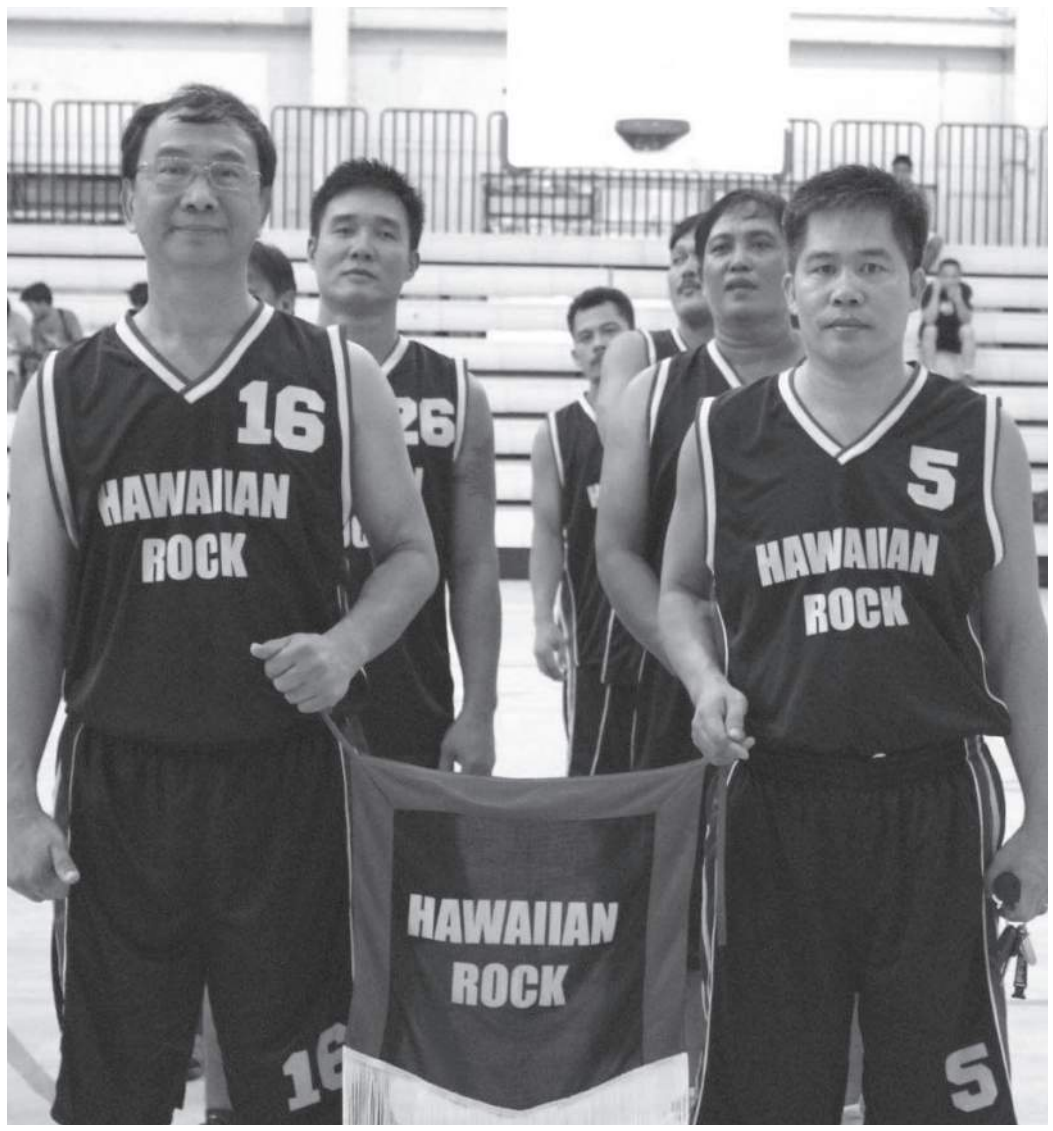
REPORTER



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Players of Hawaiian Rock pose for a photo during the opening of the Emon Lodge caging mid this month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Hawaiian Rock bagged its second consecutive win in the masters league after downing Degree, 76-66, last Wednesday night.

Hawaiian Rock made it two in a row, following a 76-66 victory over Degree in the lone game played in the 2014 Emon Lodge No.179 Basketball League 40 and Above Masters Division last Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Hawaiian Rock turned the tables on Degree in the second half to start a streak in the seven-team league after dropping its opener to Blue Haus, 79-86, last July 14. Hawaiian Rock bounced back from its debut loss with a close 76-74 win over PIC Chefs last July 21.

Facing an 11-point deficit at the end of the first half, Hawaiian Rock clawed its way back into the game with a 32-point explosion in the third quarter. Hawaiian Rock more than doubled Degree's production in the crucial third period to grab the driver's seat, 59-53. Robert Guiang fired up Hawaiian Rock's rally in the third frame, scoring 11 points. He also drew enough support Jack Palacios and Ronald Abaygar, who combined for 13 markers in the third-quarter push with the latter finishing what Guiang started, drilling Hawaiian Rock's last four markers in that canto.

Guiang and Abaygar continued to play beautiful music together to help Hawaiian Rock keep the upper hand in the fourth quarter, while Degree had limited option on offense, nailing its lowest output in a period in the final canto with its 13 markers. Degree had only five field goals in the payoff quarter, failing to gain its momentum back after dominating the first half.

Degree controlled the 20 minutes of play, as it got off to a good start, taking an 18-10 lead in the first period. Three Degree players converted two field goals each to pace Hawaiian Rock. Bobby Geli was one of them and he played even better in the second quarter, adding nine more points to stretch Degree's advantage to twin digits at the break, 38-27. Alex Ocampo chipped in six in the second canto to finish the half with 10 markers.

Ocampo and Geli then went cold in the third period, as they were both scoreless, while Guiang took over for Hawaiian Rock and later got help from his teammates to steal the win from Degree. Degree remained winless after two games.

Meanwhile, PIC Chefs barged into the win column after a 0-2 start, following a victory via forfeiture against I Love Saipan in the second game last Wednesday.

Hawaiian Rock 76 – Guiang 19, Abaygar 12, Palacios 11, Tiples 10, Dela Cruz 8, Lopez 6, Tengco 4, Saplan 2, Mateo 2.

Degree 66 – Ocampo 15, Geli 13, Sampang 10, Surima 8, Drillon 6, Catungal 6, Jacob 3.

Scoring by quarters: 10-18, 27-38, 59-53, 76-66.

FIFA rejects calls to strip Russia of '18 World Cup

GENEVA (AP)—FIFA rejected calls to move the 2018 World Cup from Russia, saying the tournament ''can achieve positive change.''

Some lawmakers in Germany want the hosting rights reviewed because of Russia's alleged involvement in shooting down a Malaysia Airlines plane over Ukraine last week.

Political pressure on Russia increased Friday when the European Union sought to freeze assets and restrict travel for more individuals and businesses.

FIFA said in a statement it ''deplores any form of violence'' and questions the purpose of relocating the showcase tournament.

''History has shown so far that boycotting sport events or a policy of isolation or confrontation are not the most effective ways to solve problems,'' FIFA said, adding that global attention on the World Cup ''can be a powerful catalyst for constructive dialogue between people and governments.''

The conflict between Ukraine and pro-Russia separatist rebels escalated days after the World Cup ended in Brazil.

On July 13 in Rio de Janeiro, Russian President Vladimir Putin attended a World Cup handover ceremony with Brazilian counterpart Dilma Rousseff. Both then sat next to FIFA President Sepp Blatter to watch the final at the Maracana Stadium, won by Germany.

FIFA, which has Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko on its executive committee, said a World Cup in the country ''can be a force for good.''

''FIFA believes this will be the case for the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia,'' the governing body said.

Blatter already rejected calls to strip Russia of the tournament after it annexed the Crimea this year.

''The World Cup has been given and voted to Russia and we are going forward with our work,'' Blatter said in March.

In a separate statement Friday, Mutko said a U.S.-led boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics had been a mistake.

''So there's no sense in reacting to politicians trying to make names for themselves,'' Mutko was quoted saying by the Russian news agency R-Sport. ''We're preparing in a calm way, building facilities, getting ready for the World Cup.''

Russia has announced a $20 billion budget for building and renovating 12 stadiums, and other construction projects, for the first World Cup in Eastern Europe.

Restricting Russian financial institutions' access to European capital markets was suggested to a meeting of EU ambassadors in Brussels on Friday. The 28-nation bloc is scheduled to further discuss the subject Tuesday.

''FIFA has stated many times that sport should be outside politics,'' Mutko said. ''Hosting an event like this, we're doing it for athletes from all over the world, for footballers, for the fans.''

CNMI

From Page 28

Enoch's 218kg earned him the third gold in the 62kg weight class.

In the 77kg, Salvi Villanueva nabbed three bronze medals after listing 86kg in the snatch, 115kg in clean and jerk, and 201kg in total. Joining Villanueva, Barnhouse, and Apelo on the CNMI Weightlifting Team were Joseph Jucutan, Jose Quan, Harold Aranda, Roman Palacios, and Enrico Valdez, and John Mario.

With Barnhouse and company adding 12 medals to the CNMI's collection, Team Marianas's tally improved to 14-14-4 (gold, silver, bronze) and is aiming for at least three medals with the Commonwealth bets still in the hunt in women's basketball and two races in canoe competition.

The CNMI is in sixth place in the medal tally as of 6pm yesterday, behind Guam (33-21-7), Marshall Islands (33-20-30), Pohnpei (32-40-21), Palau (29-22-29), and Yap (17-21-14).

Paddlers rule 1,500m race

The CNMI's paddlers braved the heavy rains last Saturday en route to a gold medal win in the men's, 1,500m event.

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, James Pedro Aldan Jr., Carter Calma, Benusto Olopai, and Joshua Andrew completed the race in the waters off Lidakihka Beach in 7:47.96 to prevail against the quintet of Pohnpei, which submitted 7:48.19. Palau rounded out the Top 3 to make it to the podium with a time of 7:59.71.

In the men's 500m, Pohnpei was the top finisher at 2:13.19, edging Guam (2:14.57) and Palau (2:21.85). In the women's division, Palau swept the 1,500m and 500m races with Pohnpei and Kosrae getting the silver and bronze in the middle distance event and Guam and the host completing the Top 3 in the sprint.

Today, paddlers battle for medals in the 15K and 20K races.

Also set for today is the CNMI Men's Basketball Team's battle for fifth place match against either Palau or Marshall Islands. The Commonwealth's cagers failed to advance to the medal round after losing to Kosrae (scores were unavailable) in the playoffs last Saturday.

In the women's basketball, the CNMI was in must-win situation in its game against the Marshall Islands yesterday. A victory will keep the CNMI cagebelles' medal hopes alive, as they will make the four-team cut.

MICRO

From Page 28

Facebook account.

Baseball game rained-out, again

The fight for the first finals seat between the CNMI and Guam had to wait for another day, as yesterday's match was called off due to heavy rains. The first semis match has been stalled since Saturday, while the new schedule of the anticipated tiff has yet to be release at press time last night.

"Another wet day here on Pohnpei. Games possibly moved to tomorrow (Sunday) or sooner if weather clears," said CNMI Baseball Team statistician AJ Murig Palacios on his Facebook account post last Saturday.

In Baseball Oceania's Facebook account, it was posted that it was still raining hard Sunday morning, making it unlikely to hold the 2pm game between the CNMI and Guam.

The CNMI and Guam arranged their showdown for the first finals berth in the baseball tournament after taking the Top 2 spots in the elimination round. Guam ended the elimination with a flawless 4-0 slate, while the CNMI had a 3-1 card.

Guam snapped the CNMI's winning streak after pulling off a 3-2 win last Thursday at the Daini Field.

According to Murig, Guam escaped with the close victory after Brian Balajadia scored off a pickoff error from the CNMI at the bottom of the seventh inning. Earlier at the top of the seventh, Ben Jones singled and drove in Rocco Reyes to force the 2-2 standoff.

The CNMI and Guam breathed on each other's next right from the start with the former taking a precarious 1-0 lead at the top of the first off a Pat Alepuyo RBI single. Alepuyo brought home Jared Sablan. Guam quickly tied the match at the bottom of the first off a solo homer from Shon Muna Jr. Neither team scored in the next three and a half innings before Guam ended its silence at the bottom of the fifth with Balajadia's single driving Rico Castro home for their 2-1 advantage.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	57	46	.553	—
New York	54	49	.524	3
Toronto	55	50	.524	3
Tampa Bay	51	53	.490	6 1/2
Boston	47	57	.452	10 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	57	44	.564	—
Kansas City	53	50	.515	5
Cleveland	51	53	.490	7 1/2
Chicago	51	54	.486	8
Minnesota	46	57	.447	12

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	64	39	.621	—
Los Angeles	62	41	.602	2
Seattle	54	50	.519	10 1/2
Houston	42	62	.404	22 1/2
Texas	41	63	.394	23 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	56	45	.554	—
Atlanta	56	48	.538	1 1/2
Miami	50	53	.485	7
New York	49	55	.471	8 1/2
Philadelphia	45	59	.433	12 1/2

Central Division

Milwaukee	59	46	.562	—
St. Louis	55	48	.534	3
Pittsburgh	54	49	.524	4
Cincinnati	52	51	.505	6
Chicago	42	60	.412	15 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	58	47	.552	—
San Francisco	57	47	.548	1/2
San Diego	46	57	.447	11
Arizona	45	59	.433	12 1/2
Colorado	43	60	.417	14

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Week in Sports

CNMI athletes collect medals, post historic wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI athletes had a good list of achievements in off-island competitions last week.

In Guam, the CNMI earned historic victories. First to make history was the CNMI Men's National Team, which bagged its first international win after stunning Macau, 2-1, in the Preliminary Round 1 of the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup at the Guam Football Association Training Centre in Harmon. Next was the Commonwealth's women's squad, which registered its first win in an EAFF-sanctioned tournament after a 7-0 rout of Macau in the same qualifying competition.

Emily Maxberry, Alexa Vergara, Carrie Schuler, Gabrielle White, Jeraldine Castillo, and Megan Silberberger scored in the CNMI win. They were joined on the team by Jhaneeka Atalig, Elaine Enriquez, Michelle Masga, Mikky Vargas, Marielle Gariguez, Jeralyn Castillo, Melody Johnson,Diane Pablo, Thea Minor, Elizabeth Phan, Krizelle Mae Tuazon, and Chevy Kate Alipio. Completing the team are head coach Luam Khen Koo, his assistant Wai Wo Lee, goalkeeper coach Chi Ming Tang, and team manager Mae Angeline Ito.

On the men's side, Nick Swaim and Kirk Schuler scored and were joined on the squad by goalkeeper Johann Noetzel Ethan Dickinson, Trey Dunn, Joe Miler, John Taisacan, Jonathan Takano, Jireh Yobech, Joel Fruit, Daniel Agulto, Sean Perez, Ruselle Zapanta, Jehn Joyner, Kennedy Izuka, Lucas Knecht, Bo Barry, and Dae Won Jeon. Kiyoshi Sekiguchi is the team's coach and was assisted by Taketomo Suzuki and goalkeeper coach Hon Kit Cheng. Joon Seoung Lee was the team manager.

Over in Pohnpei, the CNMI has hauled 32 medals as of 6pm yesterday, getting 14 golds, 14 silvers, and 4 bronzes in the 8th Micronesian Games.

Majority of the medals came from the Commonwealth's representatives in the athletics competition, while the CNMI weightlifting team provided a handful. Swimming's Victoria Chentsova and the Commonwealth's paddlers were the other medal contributors for Team Marianas. The CNMI's women's basketball team and baseball squad are still in the medal race.

The Commonwealth sluggers finished the elimination round of the baseball competition at the Daini Field with a 3-1 record, absorbing their lone loss at the hands of Guam last Thursday, 2-3. The CNMI and Guam were scheduled to battle for the first finals berth yesterday after their original match set for Saturday was cancelled due to rain.

Meanwhile, in local events, on-going basketball leagues on Saipan continued last week. Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan remained perfect in three games in the Inter-Hotel caging, while Blue Haus also kept its clean slate after downing the then undefeated Mariana Resort in the Emon Lodge masters league. In the Tan Holdings caging, Shirley's Coffee Shop extended its streak to six.

GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

CNMI players celebrate after beating Macau, 2-1, in the Preliminary Round 1 of the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup at the Guam Football Association Training Centre in Harmon last week.

KURT BARNES

The CNMI' Beo Ngirchongor, center, poses for the camera with the gold medal he won in the 8th Micronesian Games in Pohnpei last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the CNMI Canoe Team show the medals they won in the 8th Micronesian Games in Pohnpei last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the CNMI Women's National Team cheer on their male counterparts during the latter's game against Macau in the Preliminary Round 1 of the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup at the Guam Football Association Training Centre in Harmon last week.

KURT BARNES

The CNMI's Rachel Abrams (250) races in the 4x100m relay event last week during the 8th Micronesian Games in Pohnpei.

GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

The CNMI Men's National Team players listen while the Commonwealth anthem is being played before their game against Macau in the Preliminary Round 1 of the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup at the Guam Football Association Training Centre in Harmon last week.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

CNMI bags 12 medals in weightlifting

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI had a triumphant return to weightlifting competition, hauling 12 medals in the 8th Micronesian Games in Pohnpei last week.

The Commonwealth, which failed to send a weightlifting team in Palau during the 2010 Micronesian Games, fielded a 10-man squad in Pohnpei for the three-day tournament (July 23 to 25) at the COM-FSM National Gymnasium and got three gold medals, three silvers, and three bronze from the group.

David Barnhouse Jr. led the CNMI Weightlifting Team's medal rush in the ongoing Micro Games, collecting three gold medals in the men's 105-kg weight class. He had the best clean and jerk at 110kg to edge the 108 of Yap's Junior Yoruw. In the best snatch category, Barnhouse listed 112kg to overwhelm Yoruw (85kg). In the total division, Barnhouse was also way ahead of Yoruw, 230-193.

In the 85kg division, Leo Apelo swept the silver medals in the three events. He posted 141kg in the clean and jerk to finish behind the Marshall Islands' Kabuati Silas Bob (150kg) and beat Yap's Jason Galam (115kg). In the snatch, Apelo logged 100kg against the 111kg of Bob and 90kg of Galam. Apelo then registered 241kg in the total division for another silver medal finish. Bob clinched the gold with his 261kg, while Galam settled for another bronze with his 205.

Raymond Santos duplicated Apelo's feat, grabbing three silver medals in the 62kg. Santos logged 123kg in the clean and jerk, losing only by three kilograms to Marshall Islands' Peter Enoch. Enoch's teammate Switon Batin Jr. took the bronze with his 100kg lift. In the snatch, Santos recorded 92kg against the 95 of Enoch. Batin had 75kg to finish third anew. In the total category, Santos tallied 212kg for his third silver, while

See CNMI on Page 26

UNITED YOUTH MEDIA
The CNMI's Raymond Santos competes in the clean and jerk event in the 62-kg weight class of the weightlifting tournament in the 8th Micronesian Games last week in Pohnpei.

Countries	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Guam	33	21	7	61
RMI	33	20	30	83
Pohnpei	32	40	31	103
Palau	29	22	29	80
Yap	17	21	14	52
CNMI	14	14	4	32
Kosrae	4	3	10	17
Nauru	3	9	4	16
Chuuk	3	4	8	15
Kiribati	0	0	0	0

The Best 4G Experience Has Arrived! IT&E

THE KASELEHLIE PRESS
The CNMI's paddlers pose for a photo after completing their canoe races in the 8th Micronesian Games last Saturday at Lidakihka Beach in Pohnpei.

Micro Games heading to Yap

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Micronesian Games will stay in Federated States of Micronesia, as Yap won the hosting rights of the next competition.

Yap was awarded the 2018 Micronesian Games during the Micronesian Games Council general assembly yesterday in Pohnpei, beating the CNMI in the bidding. It will be Yap's first time to host the quadrennial event, making it only the second state to spearhead the Games. Pohnpei was the first one after hosting the regional event in 2002 and this year.

The CNMI missed on its bid to bring the Games to Saipan for the fourth time. The Commonwealth hosted the Games in 1969, 1990, and 2006. Guam (1994) and Palau (1998 and 2010) were the other previous hosts. The CNMI submitted a bid for the 2018 Micro Games yesterday for a test run in his hosting chores of the 2012 Pacific Mini Games.

With the loss to Yap, Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White, who turned in the bid document on behalf of the Commonwealth, said the CNMI will have its hands full in preparing for the Mini Games.

"Sorry to advise that CNMI was not selected to host the 2018 Micronesian Games. Good luck to 2018 host Yap State. We'll get busy planning for the best Pacific Mini Games ever in 2021," White posted in his

See MICRO on Page 26